砂の薔薇
デザート・ローズ
第7巻

レ-3-8

新谷かおる

白泉社文庫
◆619

砂の薔薇
デザート・ローズ

新谷かおる

7

KAORU SHINTANI

DESERT-ROSE

白泉社文庫

新谷かおる

しんたに・かおる　昭和26年、大阪府生まれ。昭和47年、りぼん「吸血鬼はおいや!?」でデビュー。その後、松本零士氏のアシスタントを経て、昭和53年、少年サンデーで「ファントム無頼」（原作・史村翔）を連載し、大ヒットとなる。昭和60年、「エリア88」「ふたり鷹」で第30回小学館漫画賞受賞。代表作は「ファントム無頼」「エリア88」「砂の薔薇（デザート　ローズ）」「ぷっとび!! CPU」など多数。

✣カバー・イラスト……新谷かおる
✣カバー・デザイン……神崎夢現&ミレニアム

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白泉社文庫JETSシリーズ
解説・宮嶋茂樹

砂の薔薇 デザート・ローズ……第7巻

紛争地帯・ヴェニスバニアに墜落した米国務長官機! 現場へ事故調査に向かったマリーたち一行は、NATO情報部の指揮下に入ることを命じられる。しかしNATO側の隊長は、元CATの鬼隊長・ミラーだった。マリーに対する異常なまでのミラーのサディスティックな仕打ち。その裏に隠されたものは…? サスペンス長編「ダブル・スペード」ほか「天使の持つ牙」「パラレル・メモリー」の計3編を収録。

白泉社文庫（……JETSシリーズ・好評既刊……）

星くずパラダイス全6巻	克・亜樹
エレキな春	しりあがり寿
おらあロココだ!	しりあがり寿
紅たん碧たん	新谷かおる
砂の薔薇（デザート・ローズ）全8巻	新谷かおる
王狼伝	作・武論尊 画・三浦建太郎
ジャパン	作・武論尊 画・三浦建太郎
酔屋の銀次	吉田戦車

新谷かおるの本

……白泉社文庫JETSシリーズ……

紅たん碧たん

砂の薔薇（デザート・ローズ） 全8巻

……JETS COMICS……

砂の薔薇（デザート・ローズ） 全15巻
ぶっとび!!CPU 1〜3
紅たん碧たん 全2巻

砂の薔薇

デザート・ローズ

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文　庫

砂の薔薇

デザート・ローズ

第7巻

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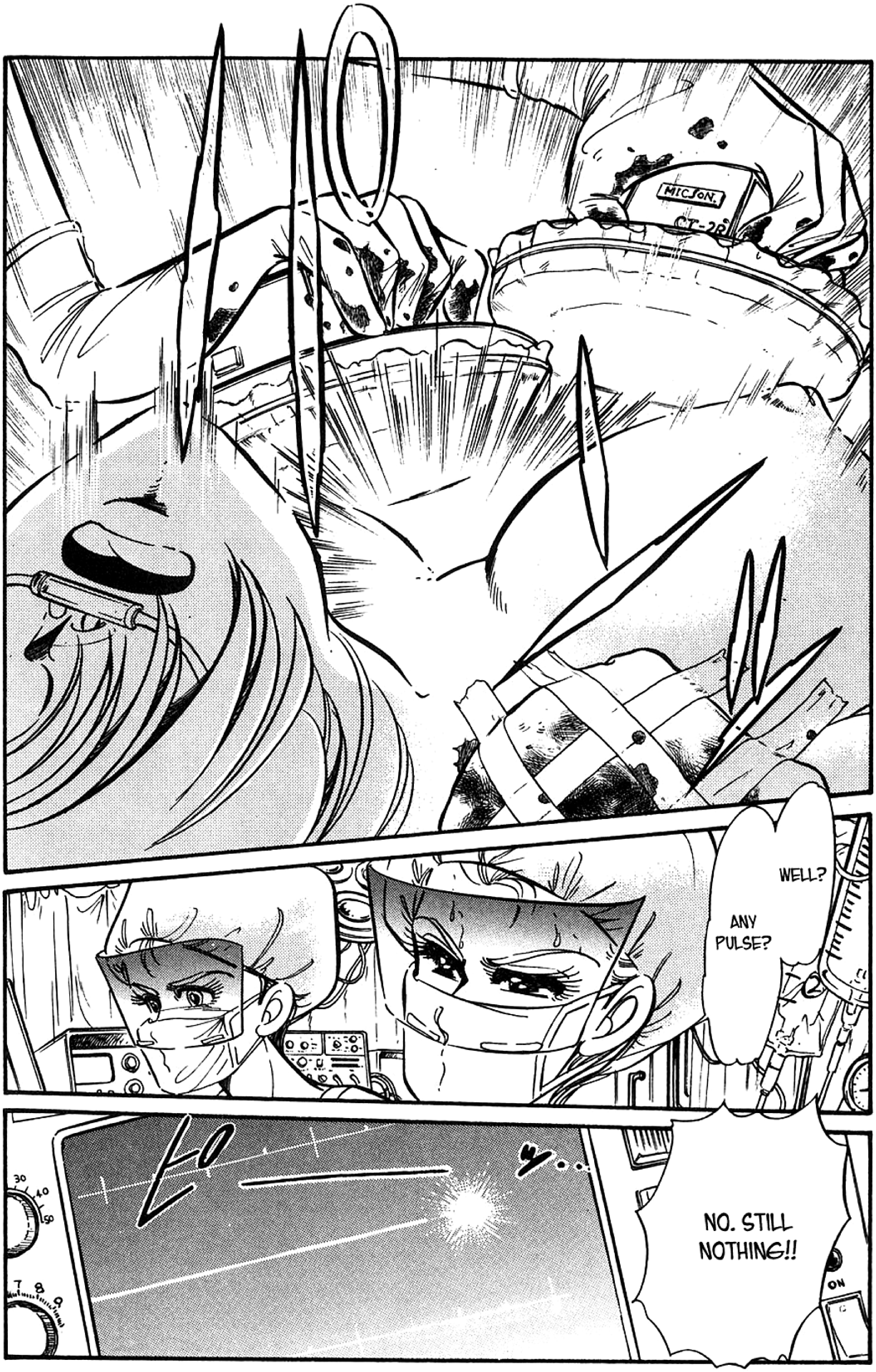
★この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・
団体・事件などにはいっさい関係ありません。

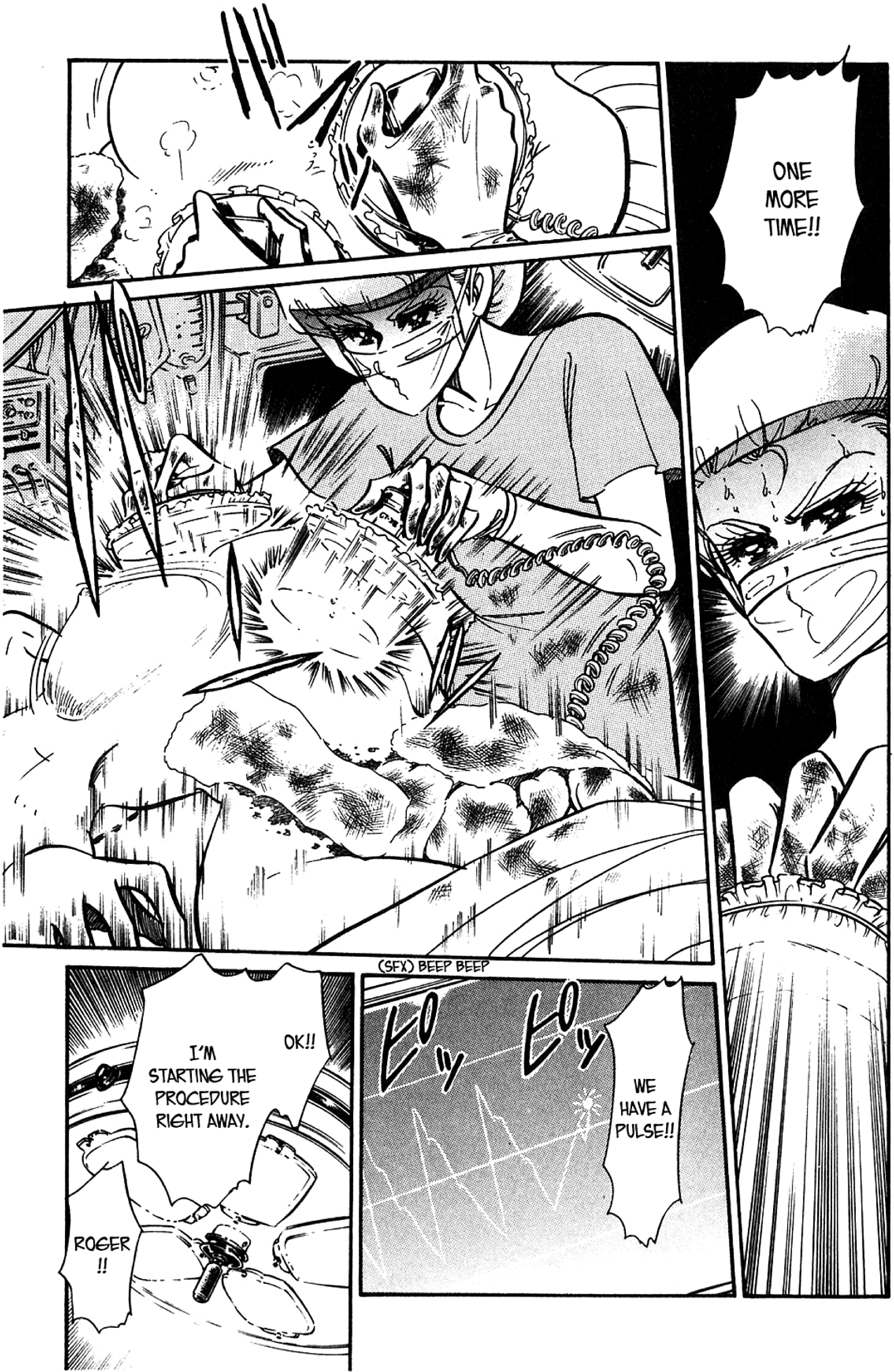
File:23 The Angel's Fang

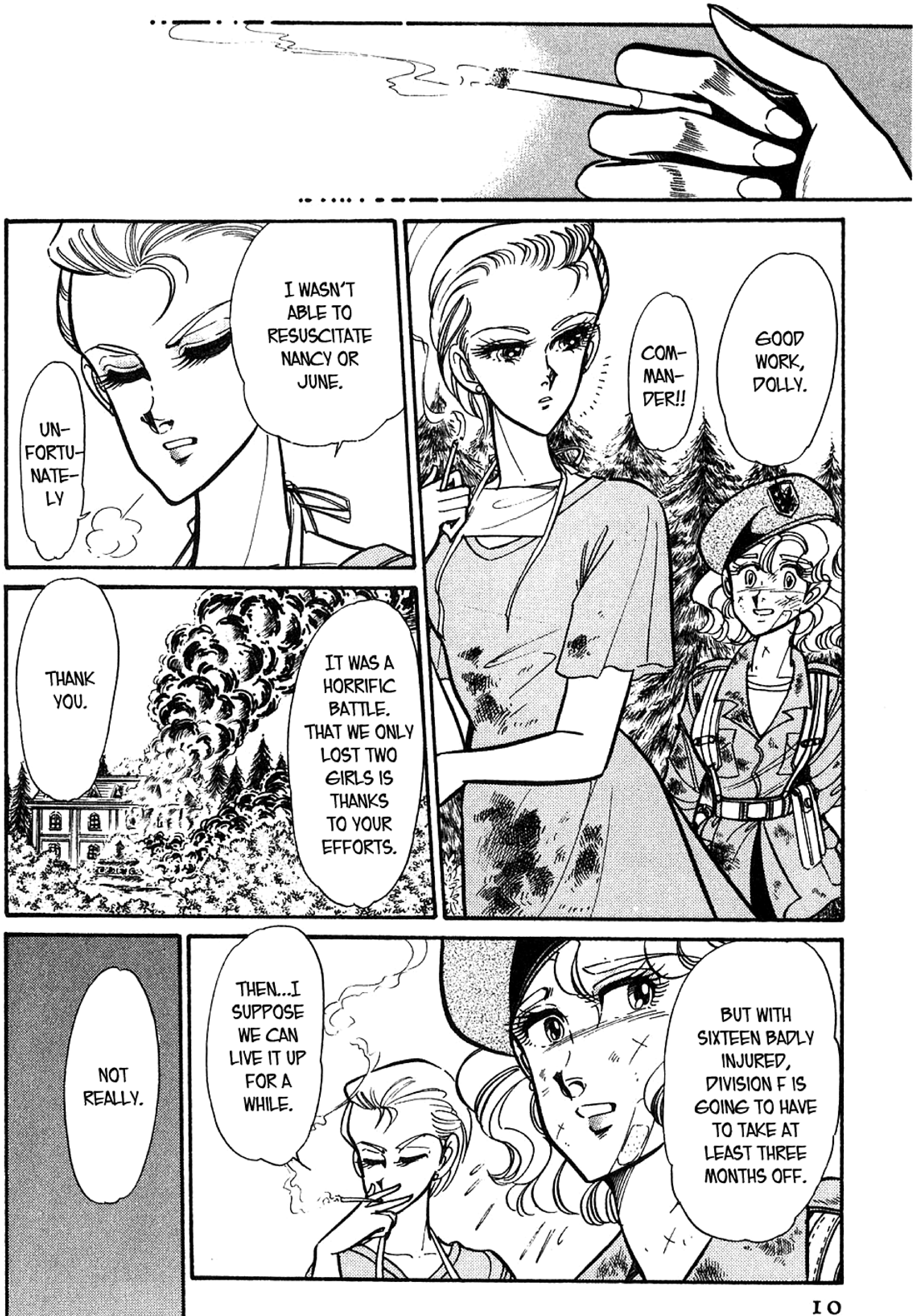
砂の薔薇

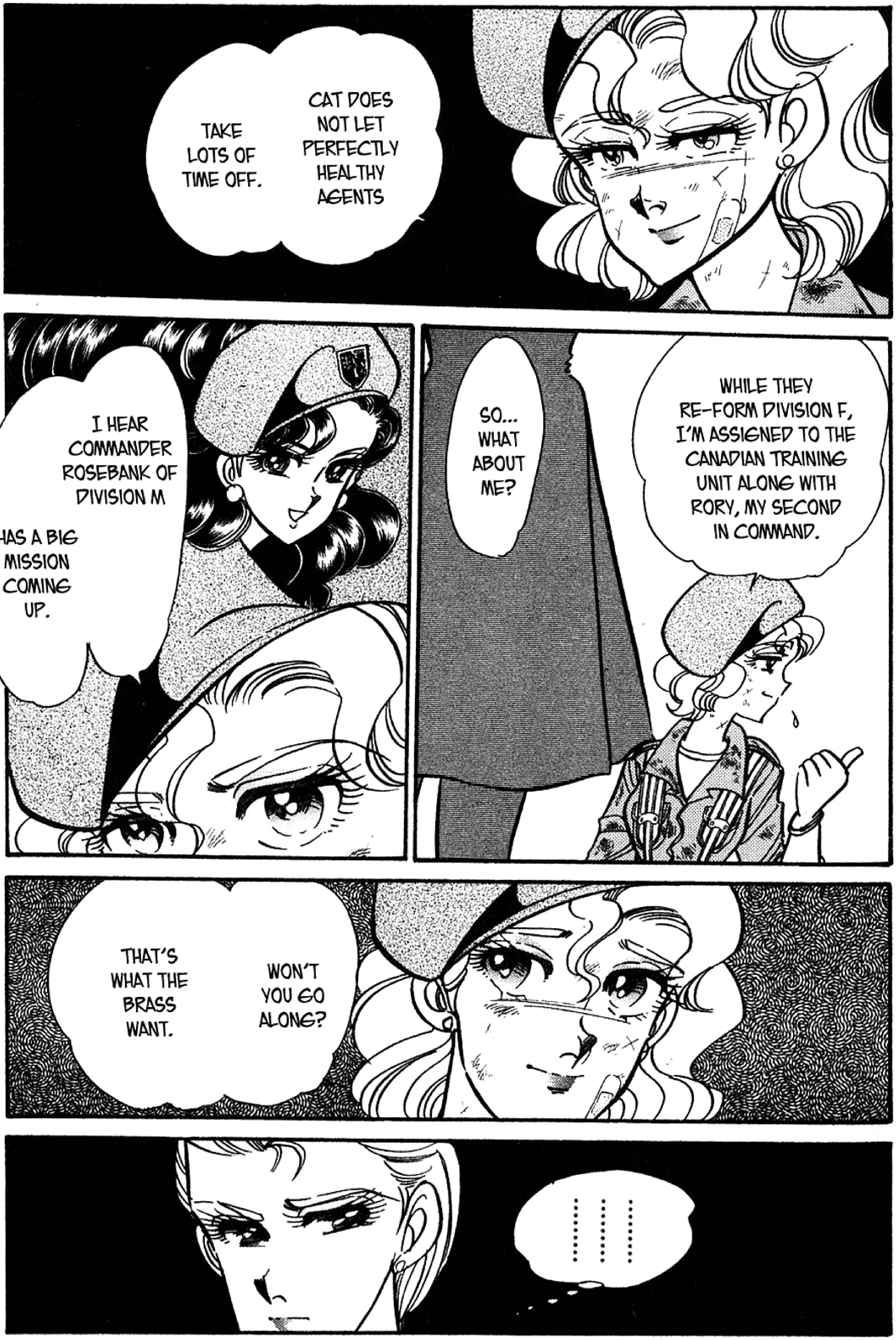
デザート・ローズ

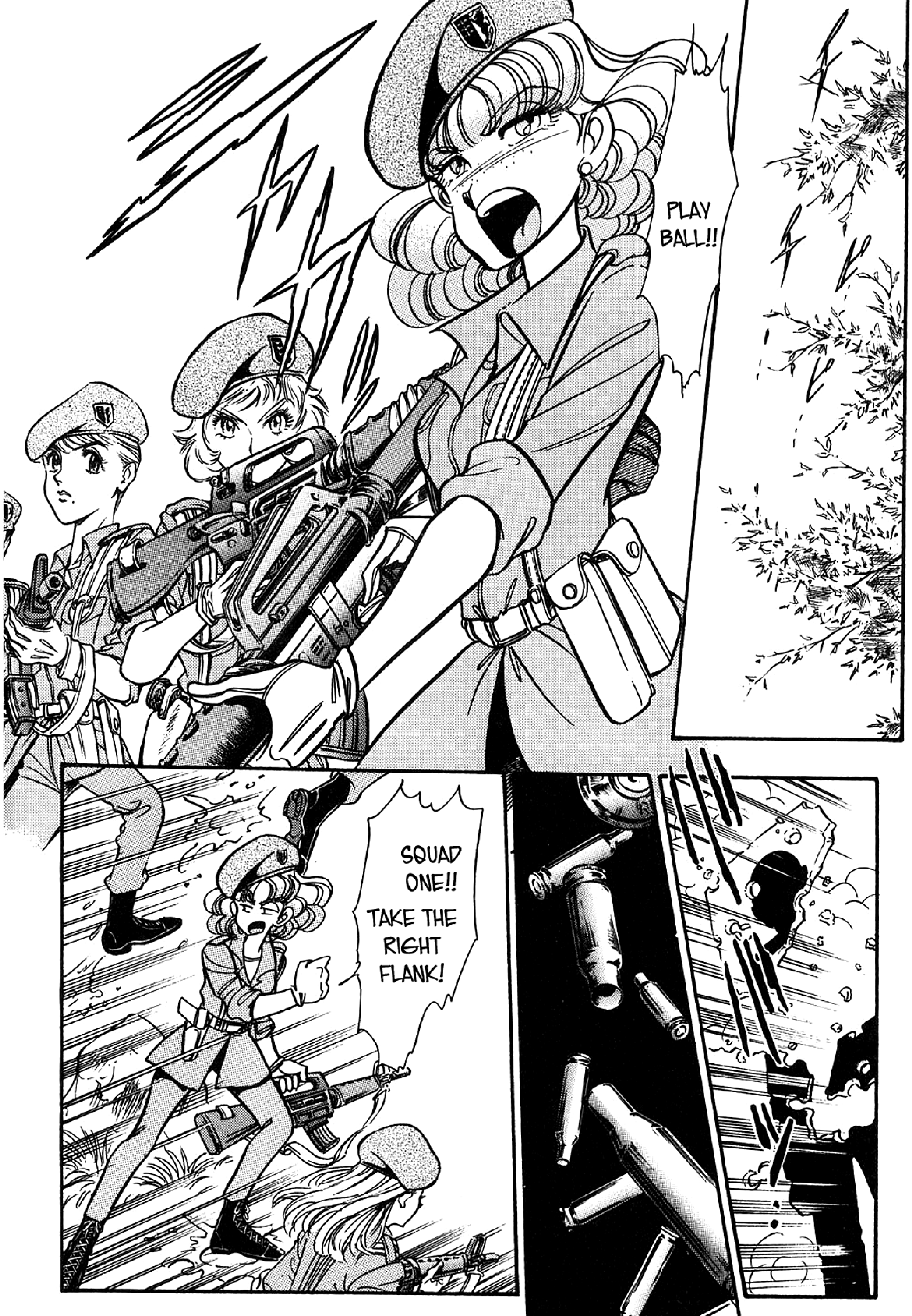
File 23: The Angel's Fang (1)

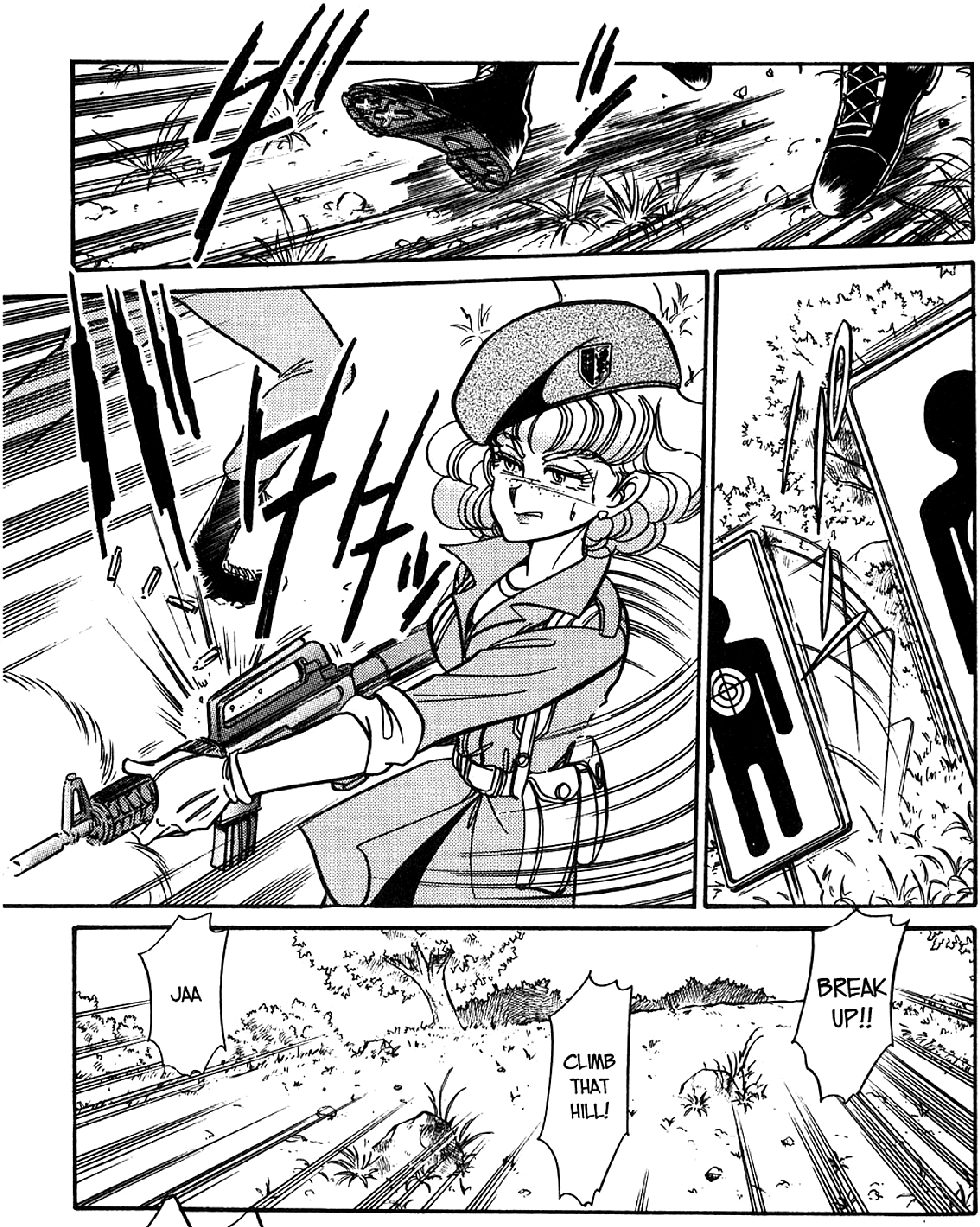

MICSON.
CT-2R
WELL?
ANY PULSE?
NO. STILL NOTHING!!
ON

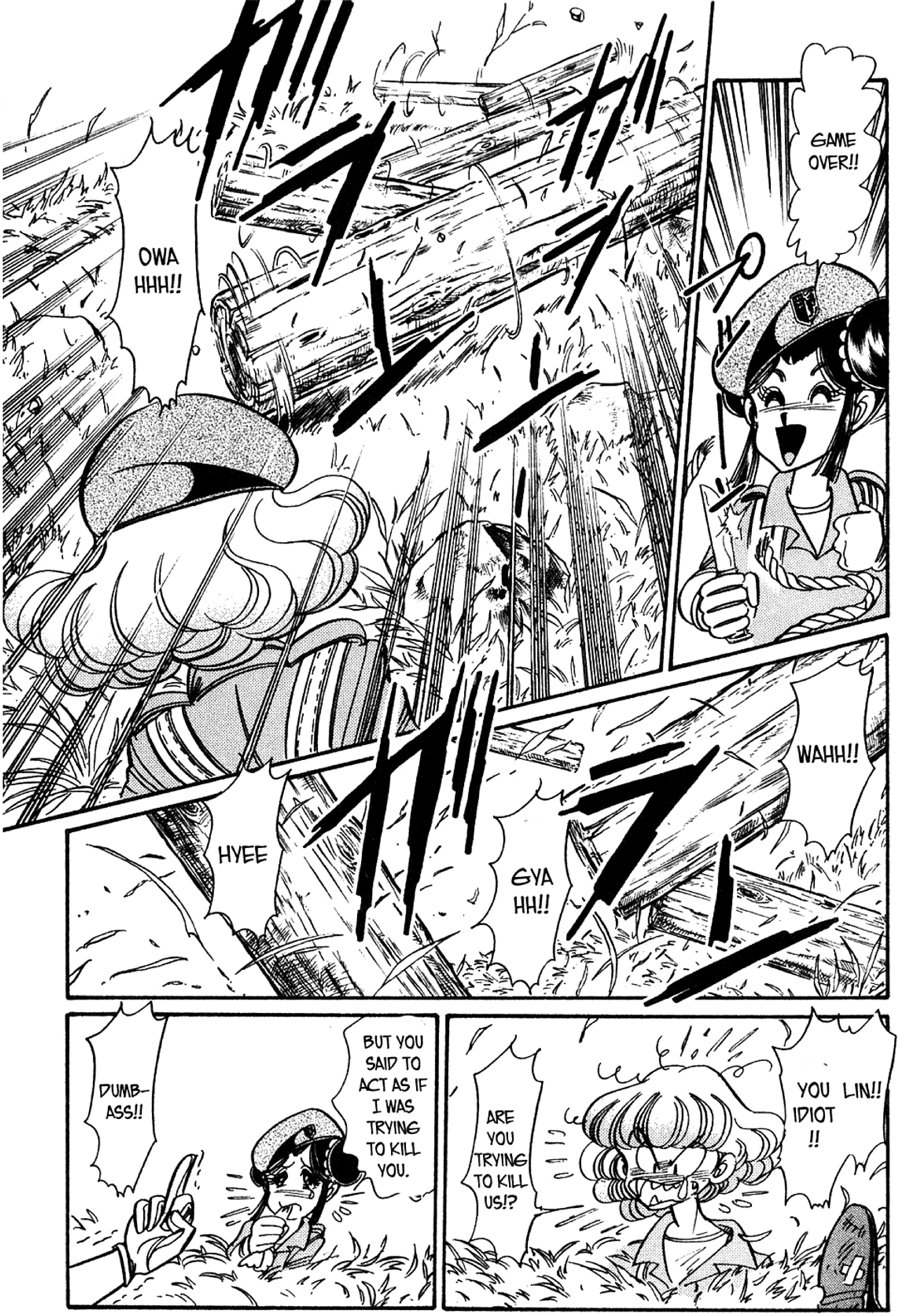

ONE MORE TIME!!
(SFX) BEEP BEEP
ピッ ピッ
WE HAVE A PULSE!!
OK!!
I'M STARTING THE PROCEDURE RIGHT AWAY.
ROGER !!

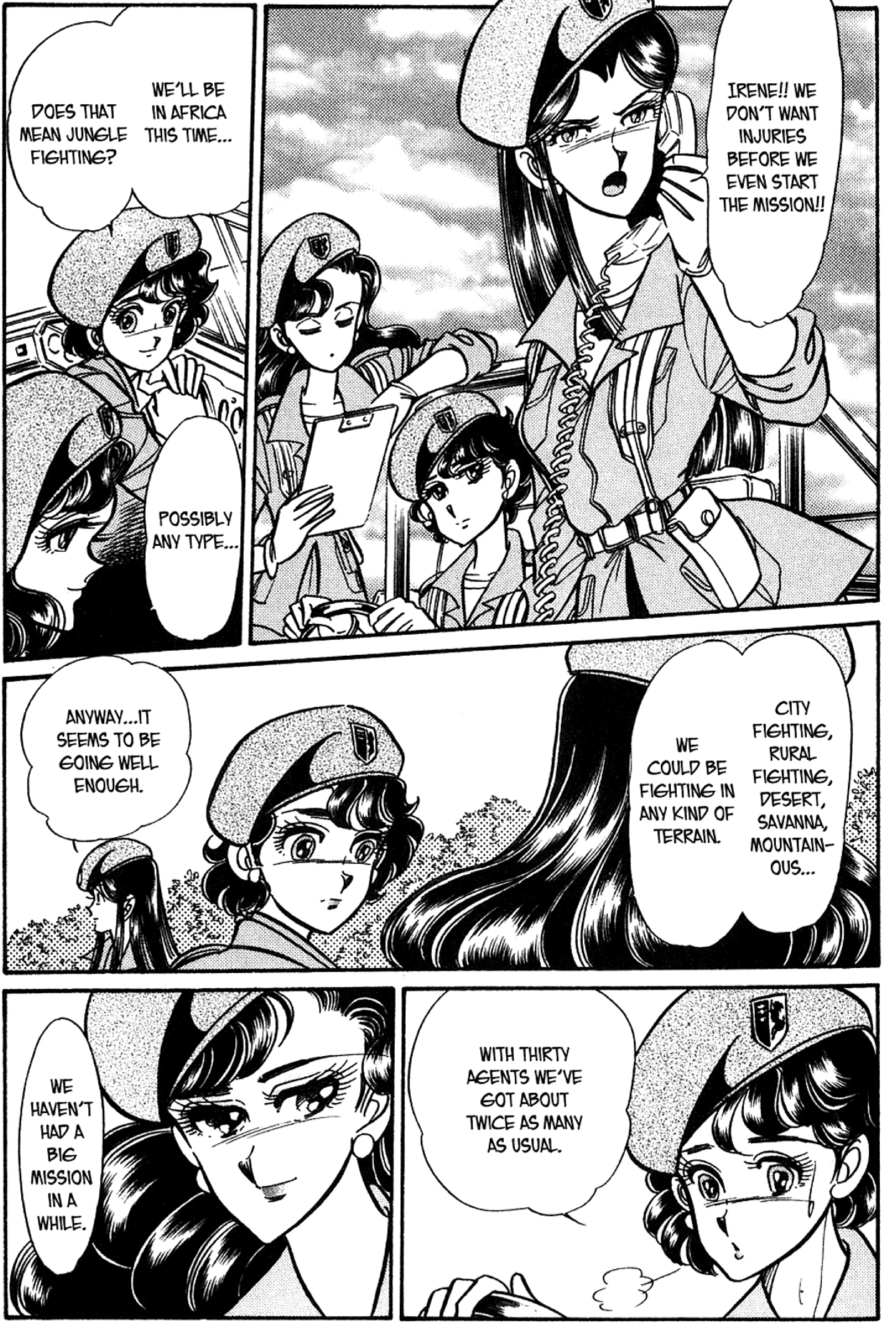

GOOD WORK, DOLLY.
COMMANDER!!
I WASN'T ABLE TO RESUSCITATE NANCY OR JUNE.
UNFORTUNATELY
IT WAS A HORRIFIC BATTLE. THAT WE ONLY LOST TWO GIRLS IS THANKS TO YOUR EFFORTS.
THANK YOU.
BUT WITH SIXTEEN BADLY INJURED, DIVISION F IS GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE AT LEAST THREE MONTHS OFF.
THEN...I SUPPOSE WE CAN LIVE IT UP FOR A WHILE.
NOT REALLY.

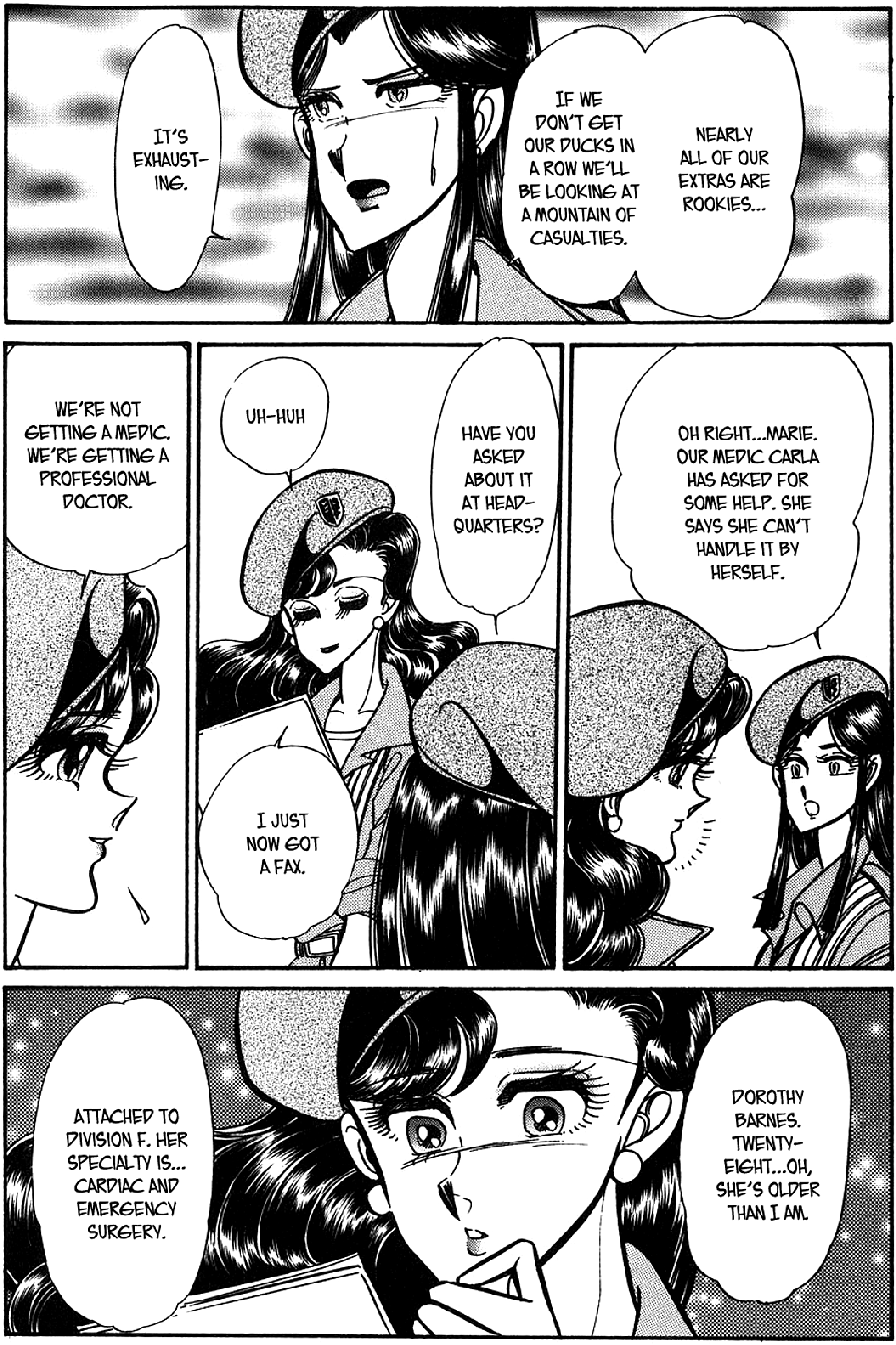

CAT DOES NOT LET PERFECTLY HEALTHY AGENTS
TAKE LOTS OF TIME OFF.
WHILE THEY RE-FORM DIVISION F, I'M ASSIGNED TO THE CANADIAN TRAINING UNIT ALONG WITH RORY, MY SECOND IN COMMAND.
SO... WHAT ABOUT ME?
I HEAR COMMANDER ROSEBANK OF DIVISION M
HAS A BIG MISSION COMING UP.
WON'T YOU GO ALONG?
THAT'S WHAT THE BRASS WANT.
……

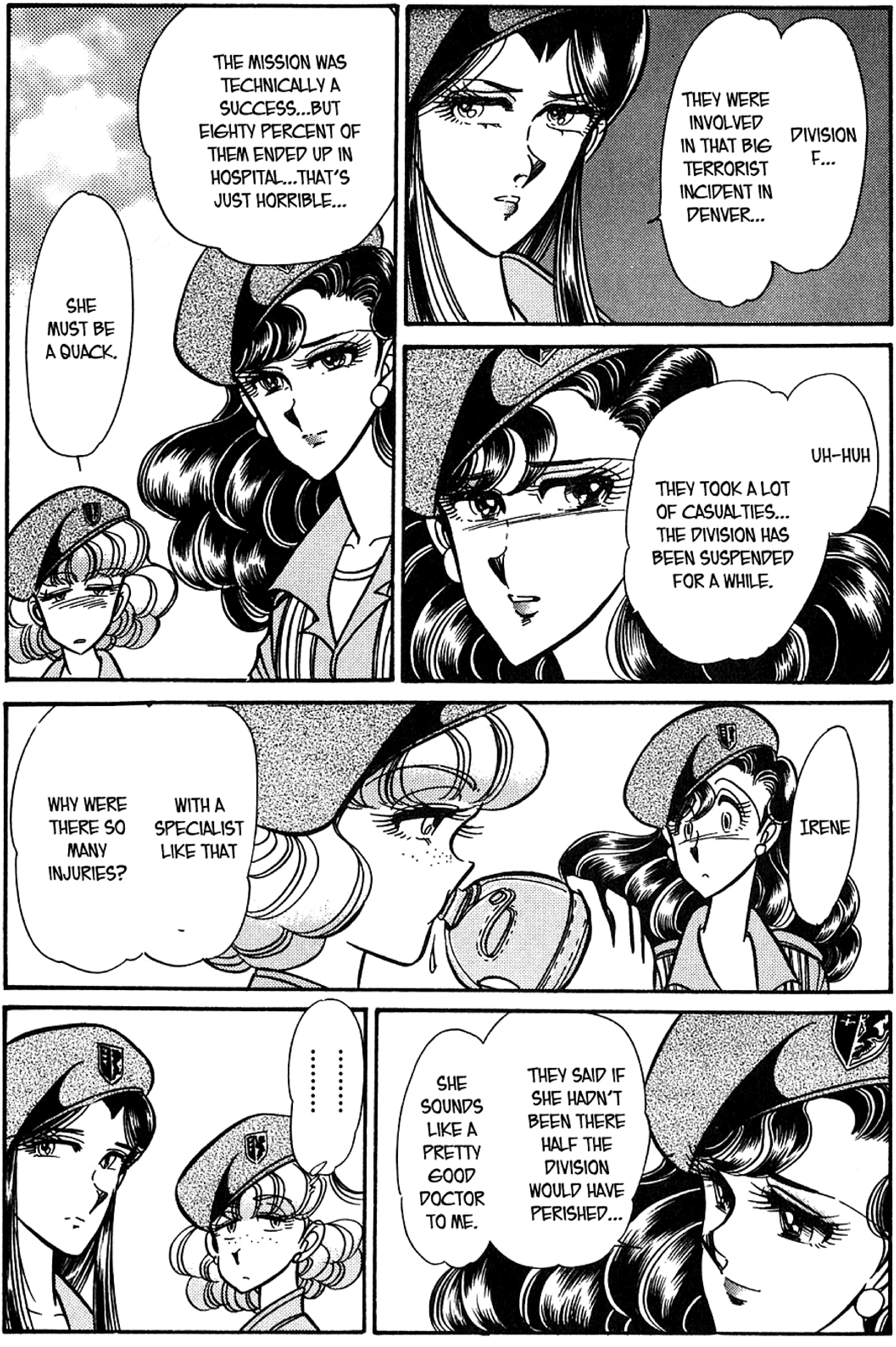

PLAY BALL!!
SQUAD ONE!! TAKE THE RIGHT FLANK!

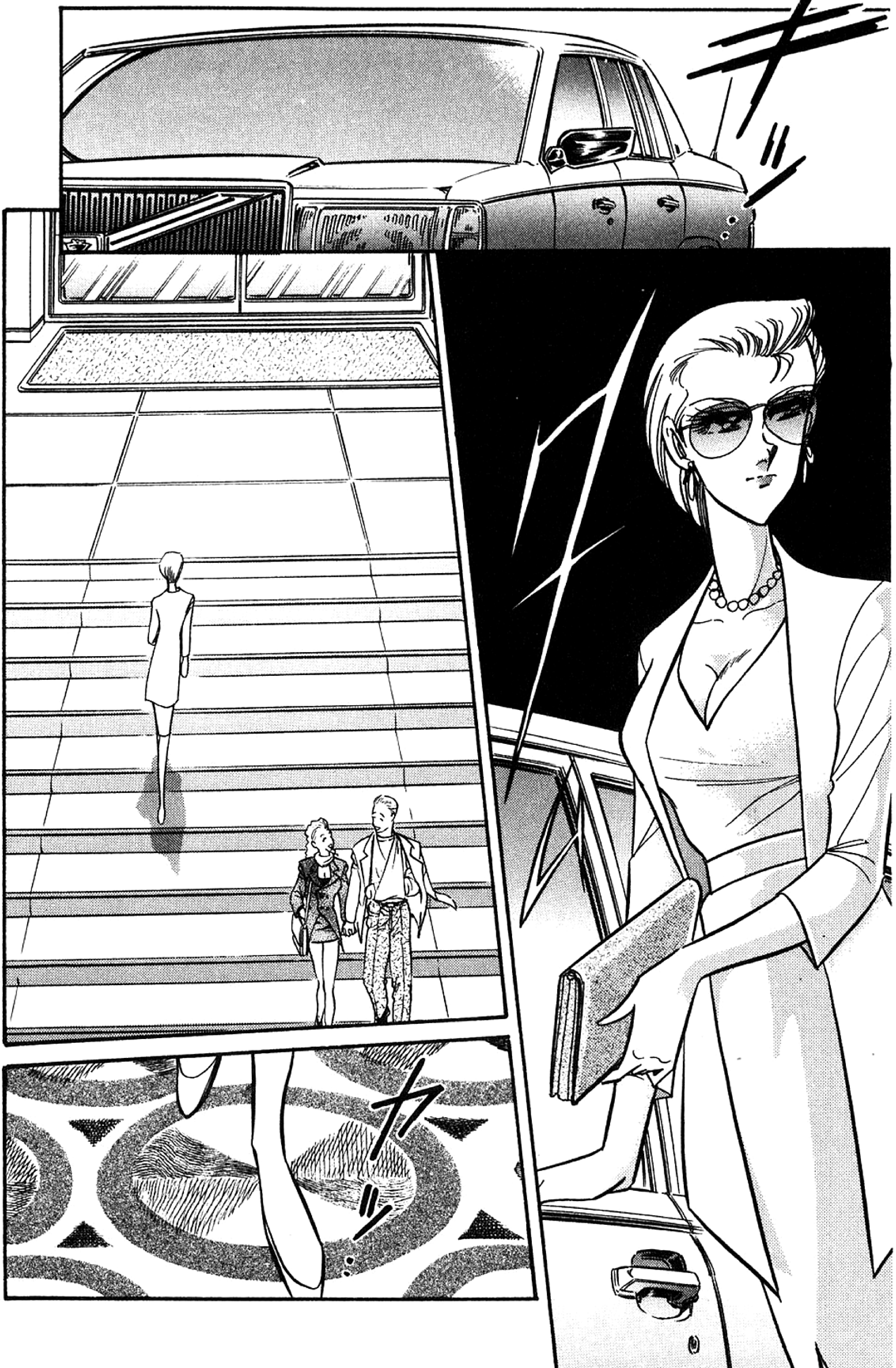

BREAK UP!!
CLIMB THAT HILL!
JAA
5:00
CASIA
TOO BAD!!
TIME'S UP!!

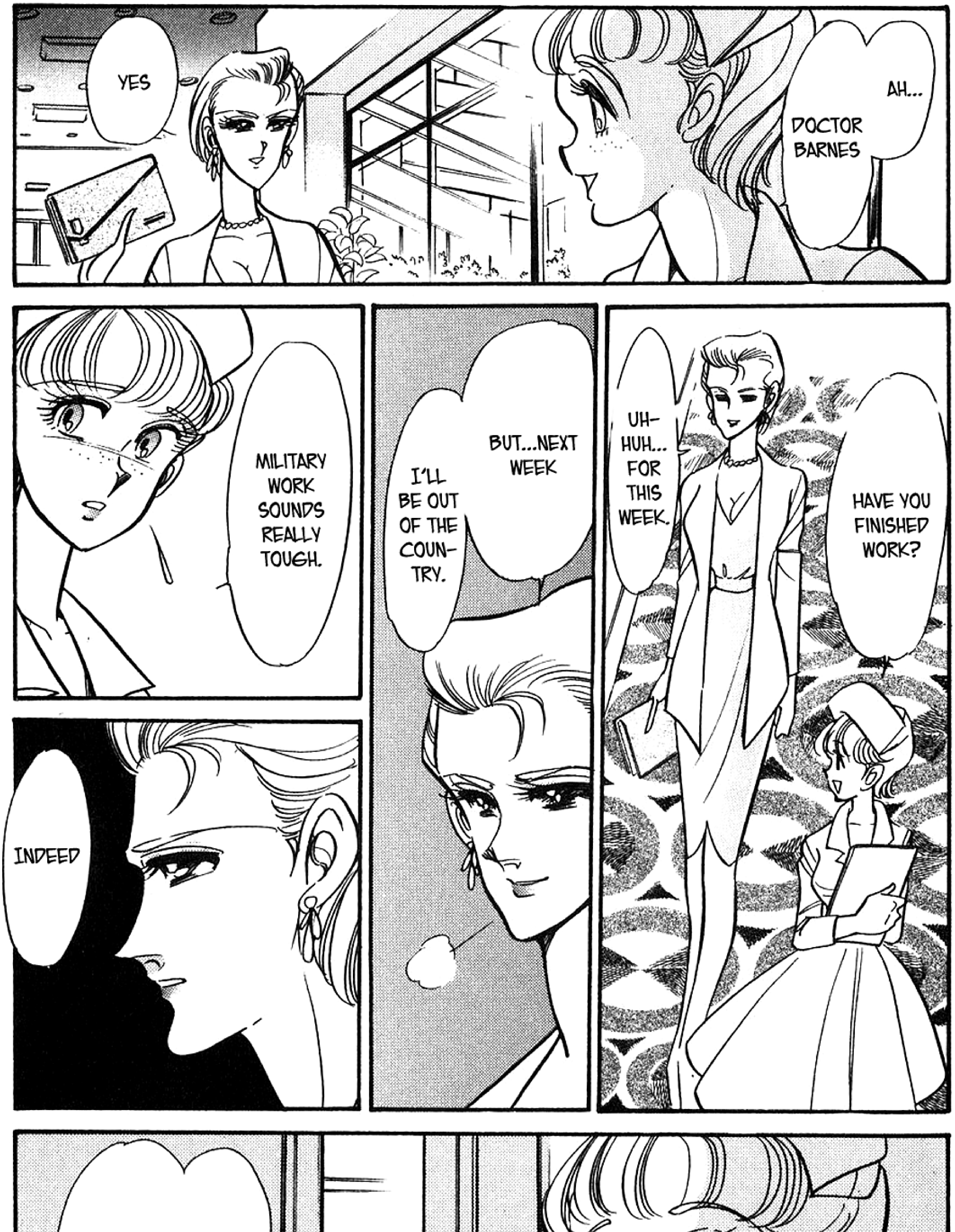

GAME OVER!!
OWA HHH!!
WAHH!!
GYA HH!!
HYEE
LIN!!
YOU IDIOT!!
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL US!?
BUT YOU SAID TO ACT AS IF I WAS TRYING TO KILL YOU.
DUMB-ASS!!

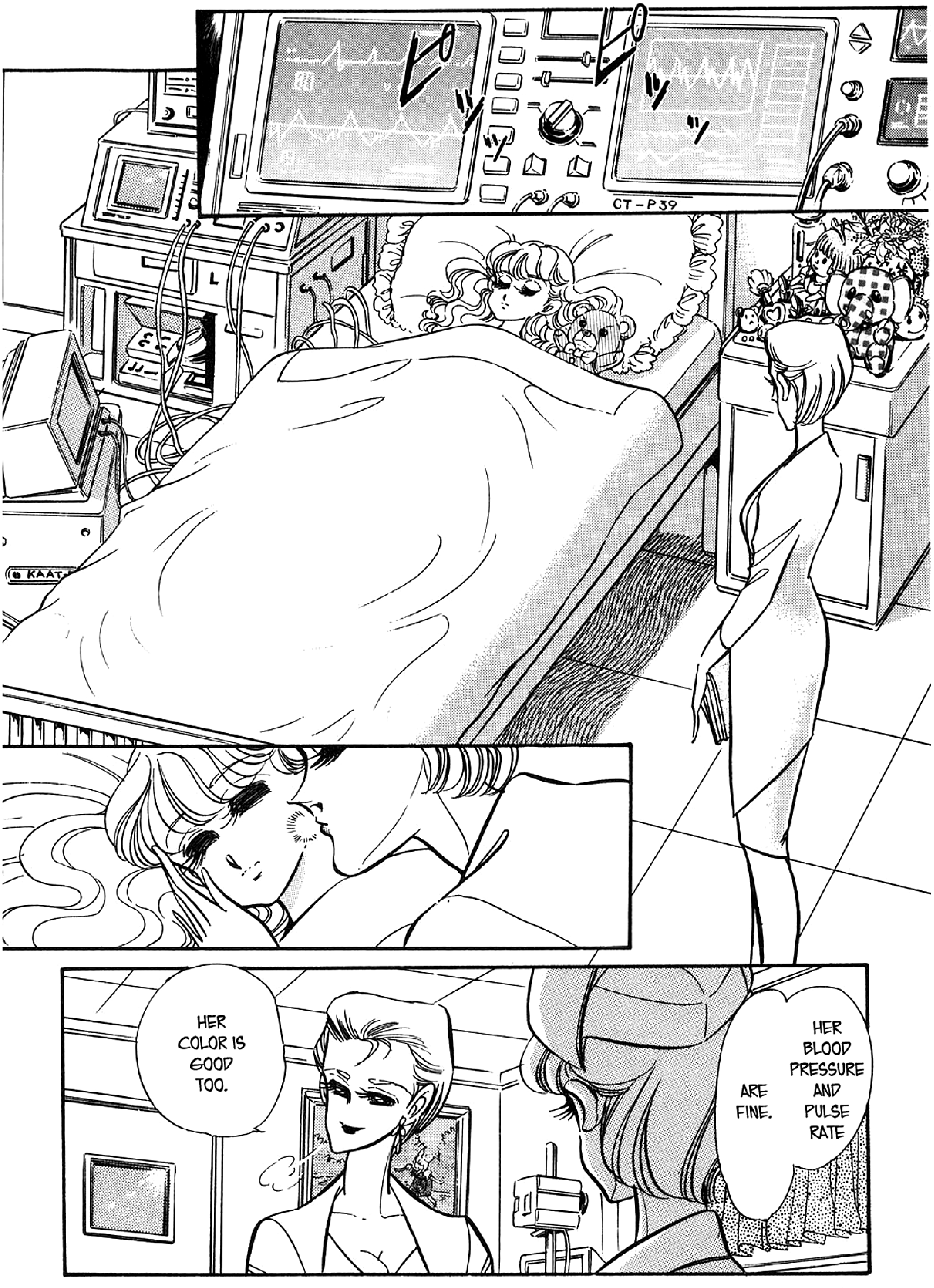

IRENE!! WE DON'T WANT INJURIES BEFORE WE EVEN START THE MISSION!!
WE'LL BE IN AFRICA THIS TIME...
DOES THAT MEAN JUNGLE FIGHTING?
POSSIBLY ANY TYPE...
CITY FIGHTING, RURAL FIGHTING, DESERT, SAVANNA, MOUNTAINOUS...
WE COULD BE FIGHTING IN ANY KIND OF TERRAIN.
ANYWAY...IT SEEMS TO BE GOING WELL ENOUGH.
WITH THIRTY AGENTS WE'VE GOT ABOUT TWICE AS MANY AS USUAL.
WE HAVEN'T HAD A BIG MISSION IN A WHILE.

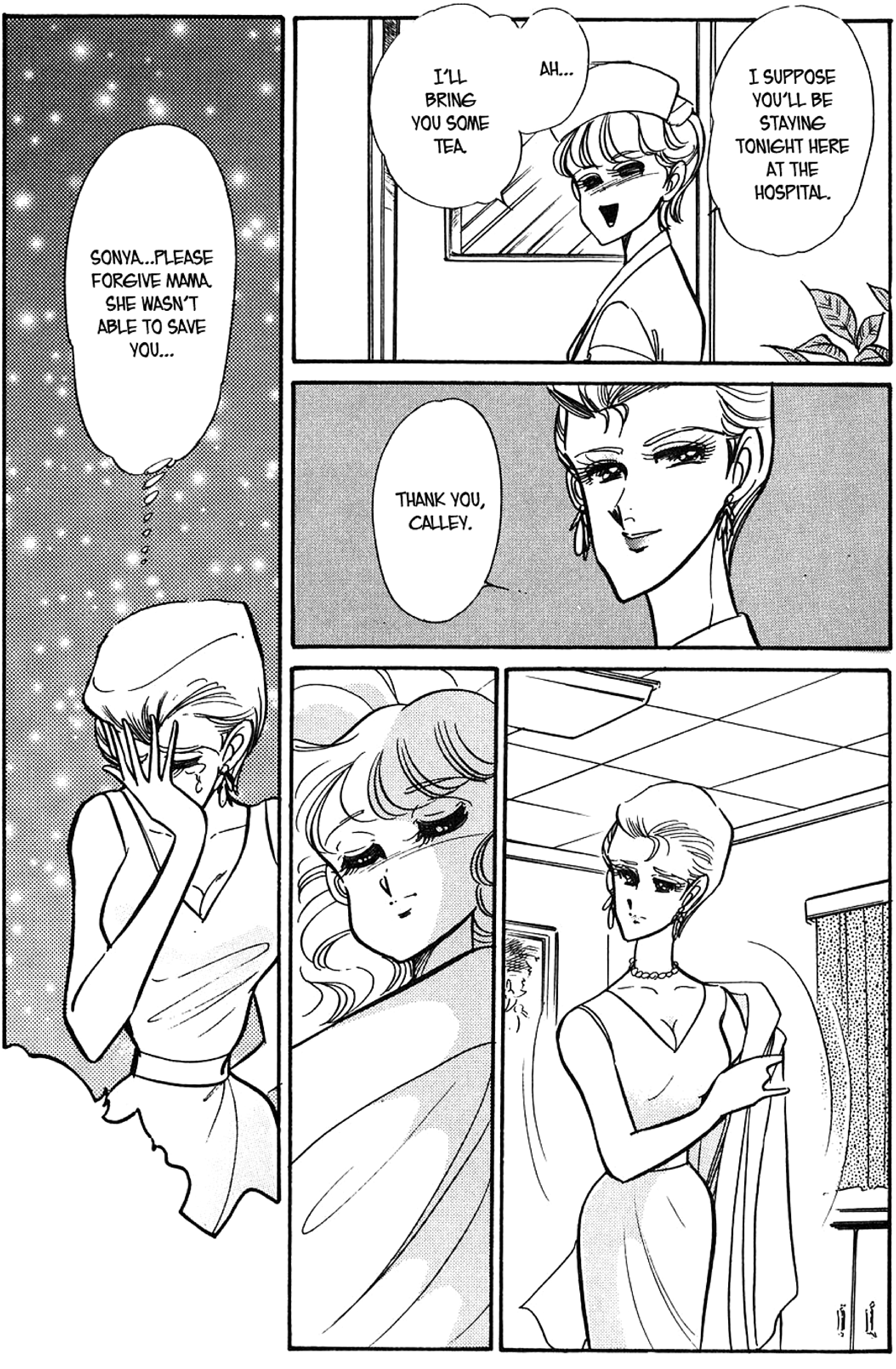

NEARLY ALL OF OUR EXTRAS ARE ROOKIES...
IF WE DON'T GET OUR DUCKS IN A ROW WE'LL BE LOOKING AT A MOUNTAIN OF CASUALTIES.
IT'S EXHAUSTING.
OH RIGHT...MARIE. OUR MEDIC CARLA HAS ASKED FOR SOME HELP. SHE SAYS SHE CAN'T HANDLE IT BY HERSELF.
HAVE YOU ASKED ABOUT IT AT HEADQUARTERS?
UH-HUH
I JUST NOW GOT A FAX.
WE'RE NOT GETTING A MEDIC. WE'RE GETTING A PROFESSIONAL DOCTOR.
DOROTHY BARNES. TWENTY-EIGHT...OH, SHE'S OLDER THAN I AM.
ATTACHED TO DIVISION F. HER SPECIALTY IS... CARDIAC AND EMERGENCY SURGERY.

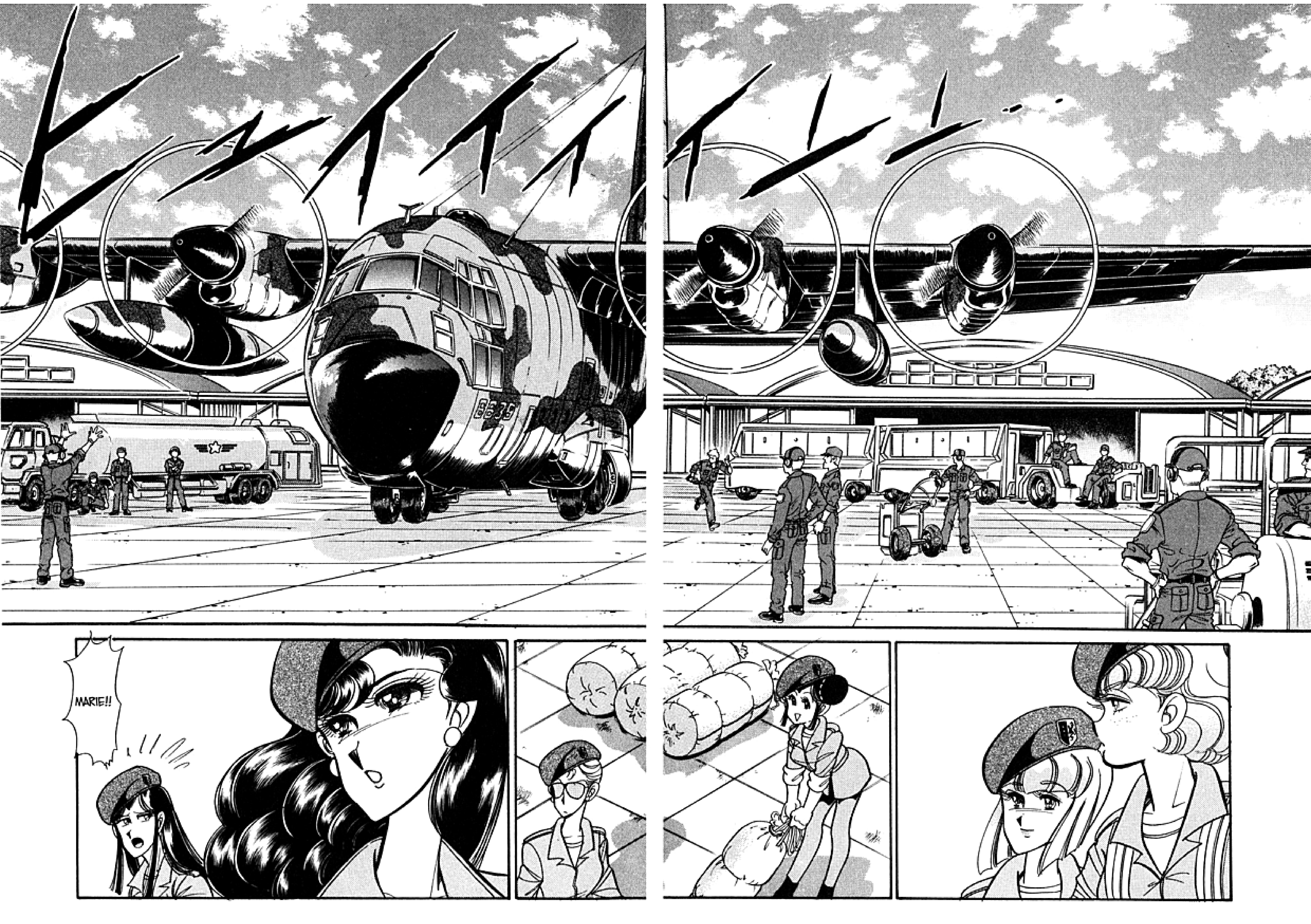

DIVISION F...
THEY WERE INVOLVED IN THAT BIG TERRORIST INCIDENT IN DENVER...
UH-HUH
THEY TOOK A LOT OF CASUALTIES... THE DIVISION HAS BEEN SUSPENDED FOR A WHILE.
THE MISSION WAS TECHNICALLY A SUCCESS...BUT EIGHTY PERCENT OF THEM ENDED UP IN HOSPITAL...THAT'S JUST HORRIBLE...
SHE MUST BE A QUACK.
IRENE
WITH A SPECIALIST LIKE THAT
WHY WERE THERE SO MANY INJURIES?
THEY SAID IF SHE HADN'T BEEN THERE HALF THE DIVISION WOULD HAVE PERISHED...
SHE SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY GOOD DOCTOR TO ME.
......

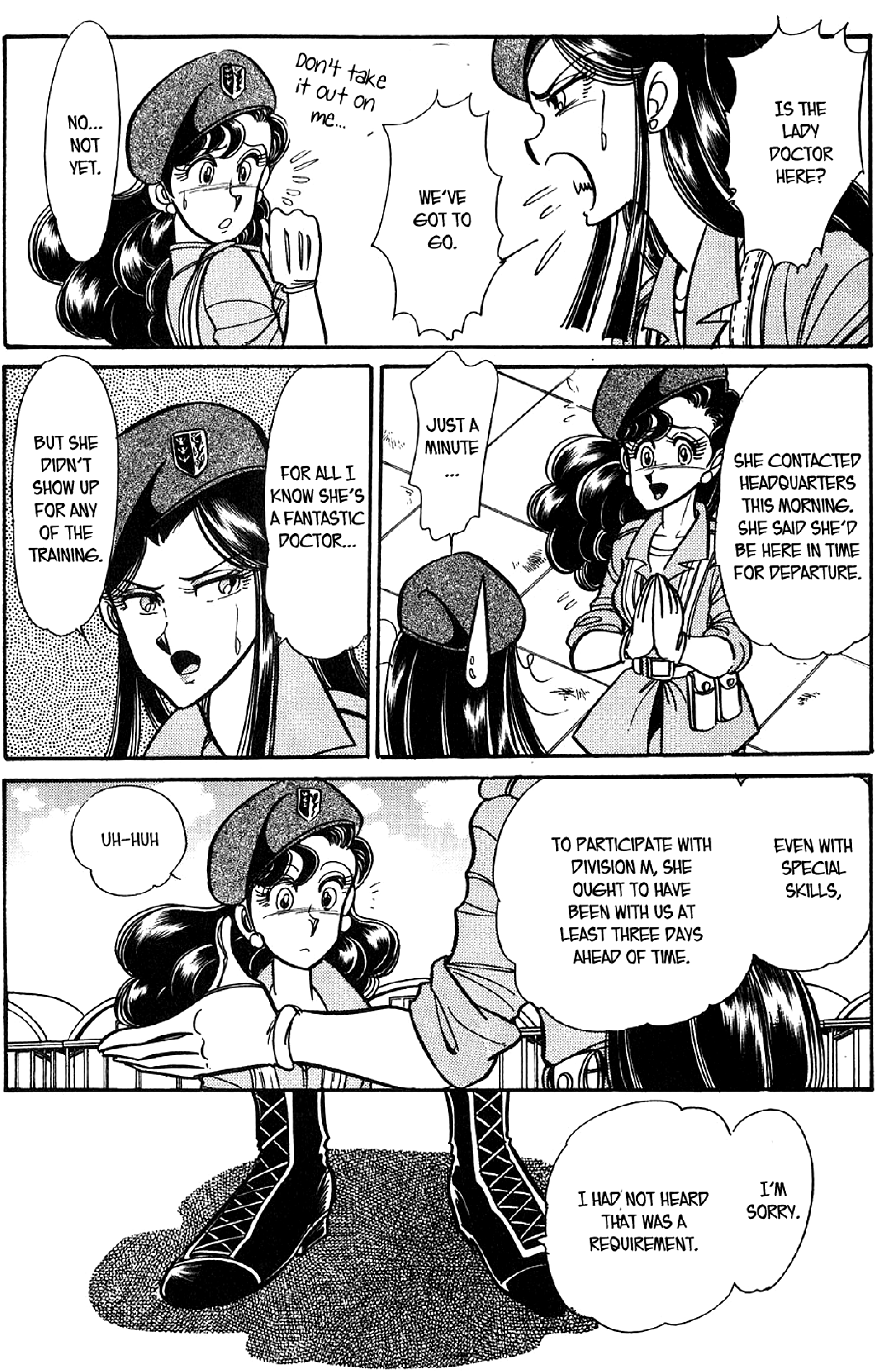

キッ
カッ…

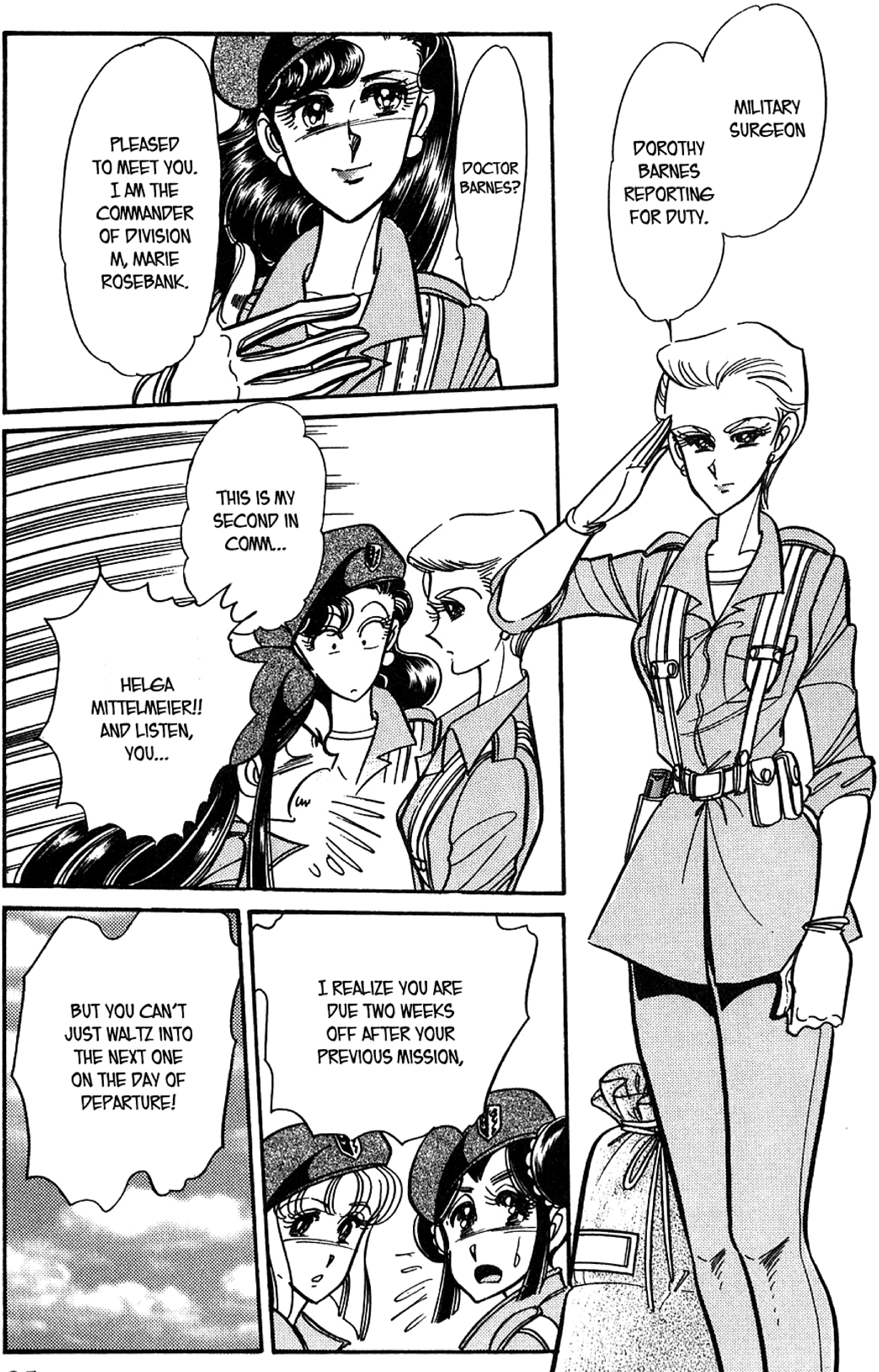

AH... DOCTOR BARNES
YES
HAVE YOU FINISHED WORK?
UH-HUH... FOR THIS WEEK.
BUT...NEXT WEEK
I'LL BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
MILITARY WORK SOUNDS REALLY TOUGH.
INDEED
SONYA IS DOING VERY WELL TODAY.

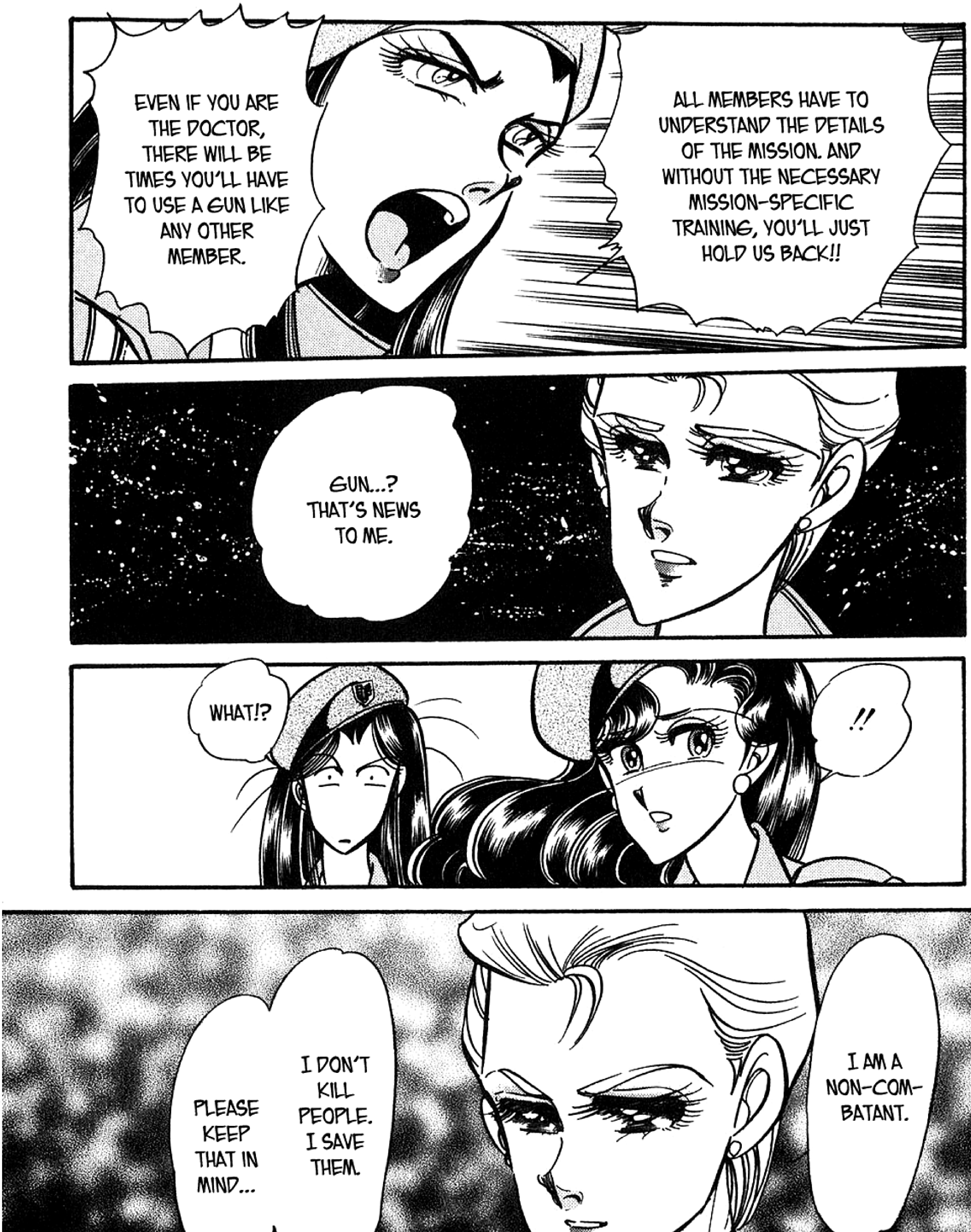

ピロ
ピロ
CT-P39
HER BLOOD PRESSURE AND PULSE RATE ARE FINE.
HER COLOR IS GOOD TOO.


I SUPPOSE YOU'LL BE STAYING TONIGHT HERE AT THE HOSPITAL.
AH...
I'LL BRING YOU SOME TEA.
THANK YOU, CALLEY.
SONYA...PLEASE FORGIVE MAMA. SHE WASN'T ABLE TO SAVE YOU...


ヒュイイイイーン…
MARIE!!


IS THE LADY DOCTOR HERE?
WE'VE GOT TO GO.
Don't take it out on me...
NO... NOT YET.
SHE CONTACTED HEADQUARTERS THIS MORNING. SHE SAID SHE'D BE HERE IN TIME FOR DEPARTURE.
JUST A MINUTE ...
FOR ALL I KNOW SHE'S A FANTASTIC DOCTOR...
BUT SHE DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR ANY OF THE TRAINING.
EVEN WITH SPECIAL SKILLS,
TO PARTICIPATE WITH DIVISION M, SHE OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN WITH US AT LEAST THREE DAYS AHEAD OF TIME.
UH-HUH
I'M SORRY.
I HAD NOT HEARD THAT WAS A REQUIREMENT.


MILITARY SURGEON DOROTHY BARNES REPORTING FOR DUTY.
DOCTOR BARNES?
PLEASED TO MEET YOU. I AM THE COMMANDER OF DIVISION M, MARIE ROSEBANK.
THIS IS MY SECOND IN COMM...
HELGA MITTELMEIER!! AND LISTEN, YOU...
I REALIZE YOU ARE DUE TWO WEEKS OFF AFTER YOUR PREVIOUS MISSION,
BUT YOU CAN'T JUST WALTZ INTO THE NEXT ONE ON THE DAY OF DEPARTURE!


ALL MEMBERS HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE DETAILS OF THE MISSION. AND WITHOUT THE NECESSARY MISSION-SPECIFIC TRAINING, YOU'LL JUST HOLD US BACK!!
EVEN IF YOU ARE THE DOCTOR, THERE WILL BE TIMES YOU'LL HAVE TO USE A GUN LIKE ANY OTHER MEMBER.
GUN...? THAT'S NEWS TO ME.
!!
WHAT!?
I AM A NON-COM-BATANT.
I DON'T KILL PEOPLE. I SAVE THEM.
PLEASE KEEP THAT IN MIND...

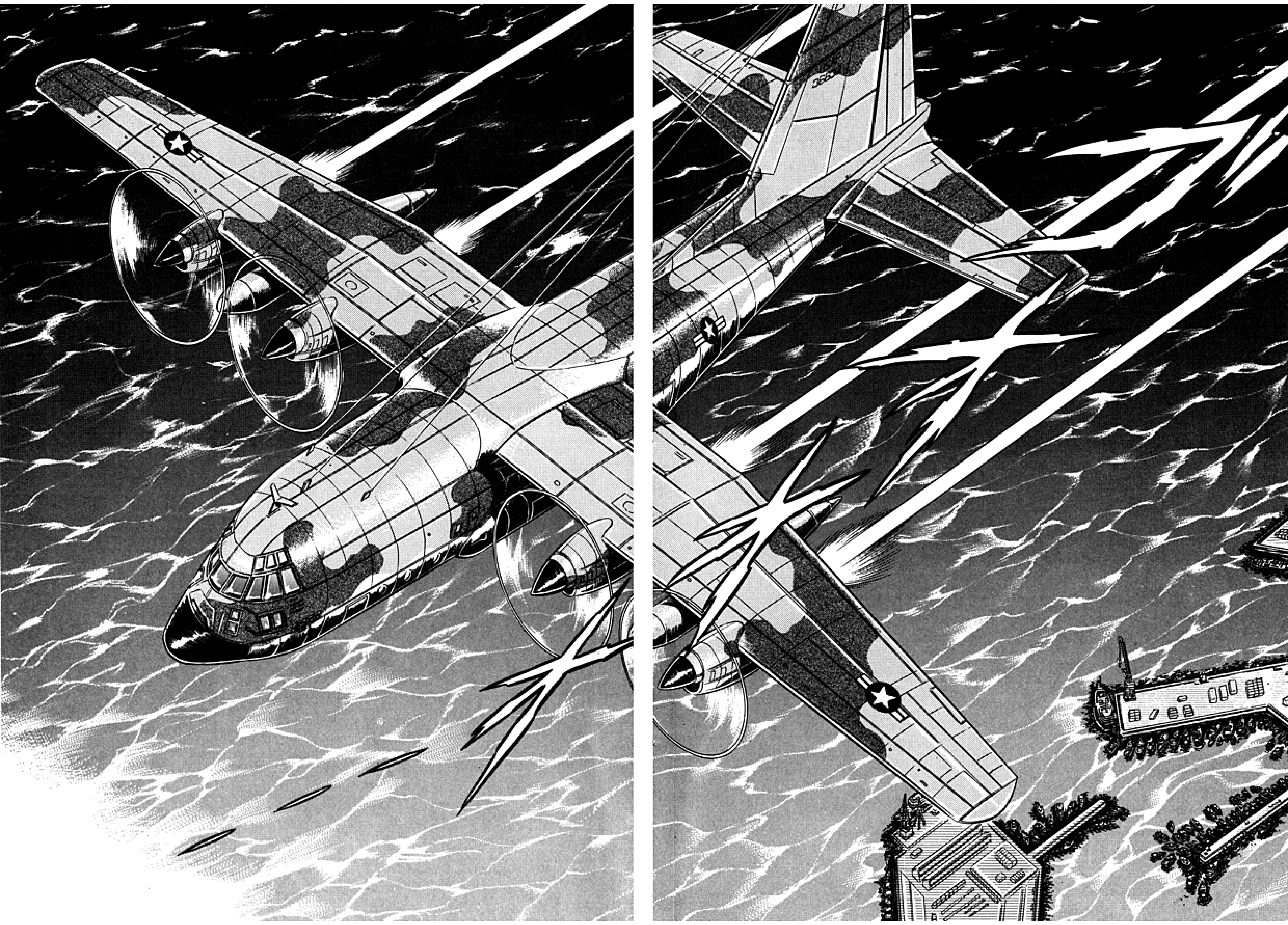
[File23：天使の持つ牙（1） おわり]

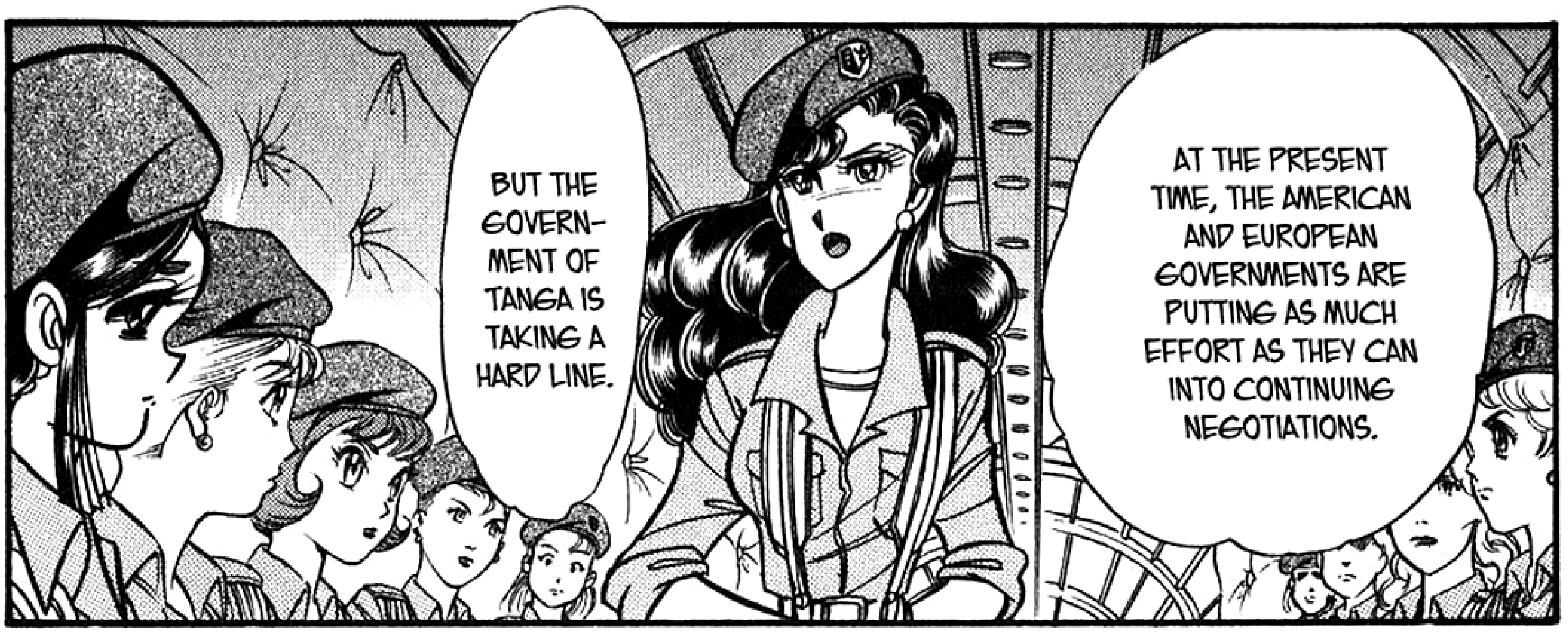
砂の薔薇

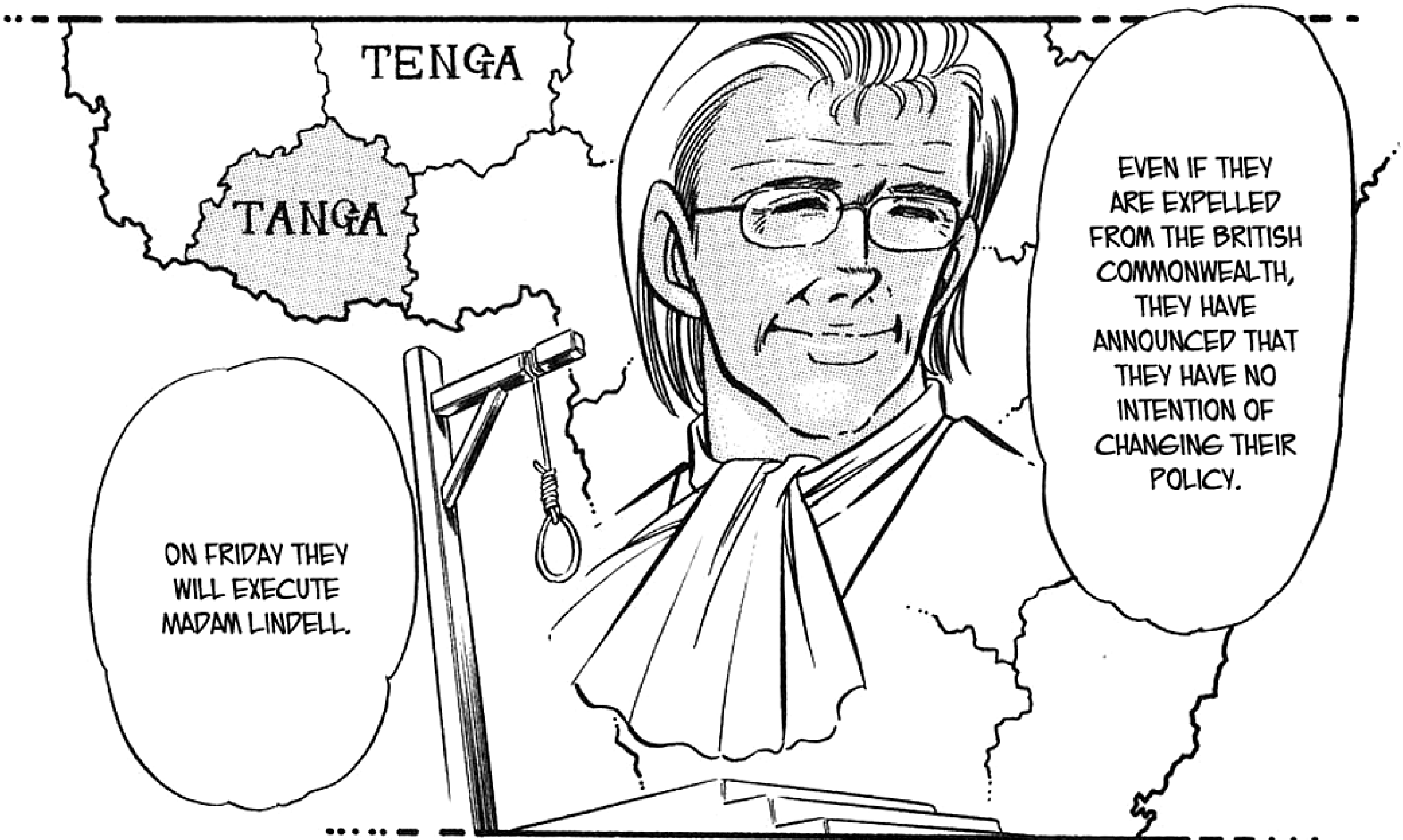
デザート・ローズ

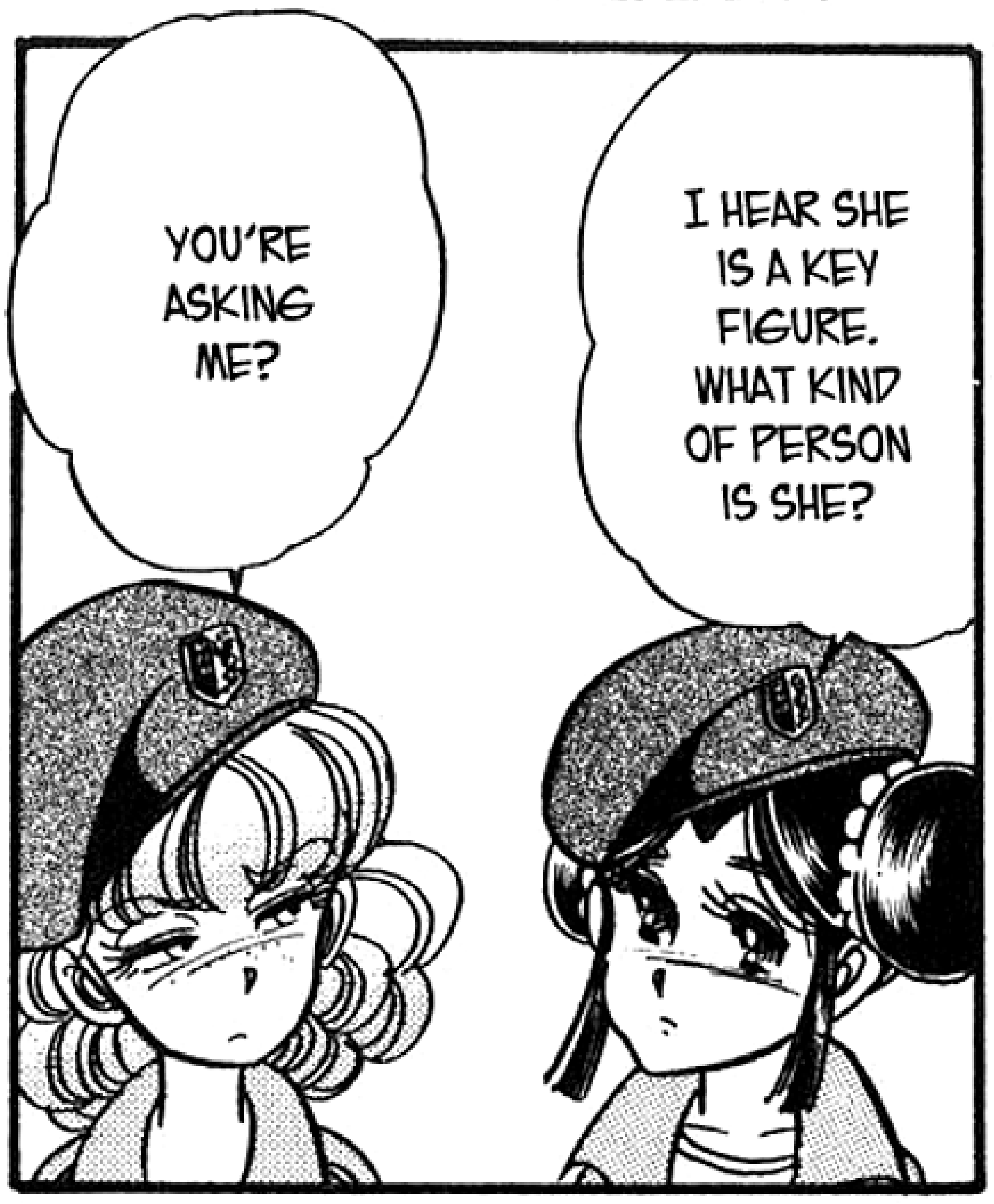
File 23: The Angel's Fang (2)

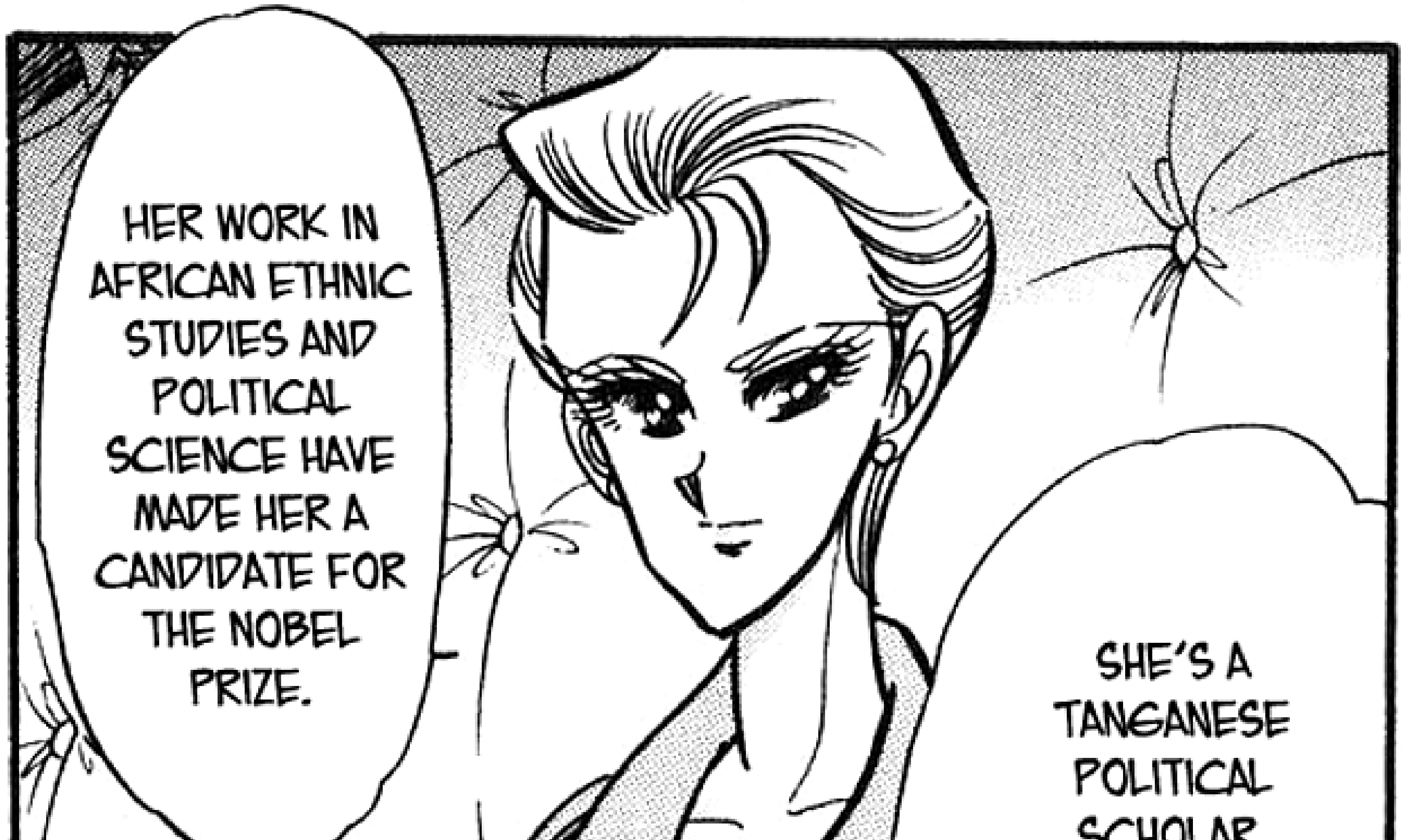
CARDI
1
2
3
4
5
83

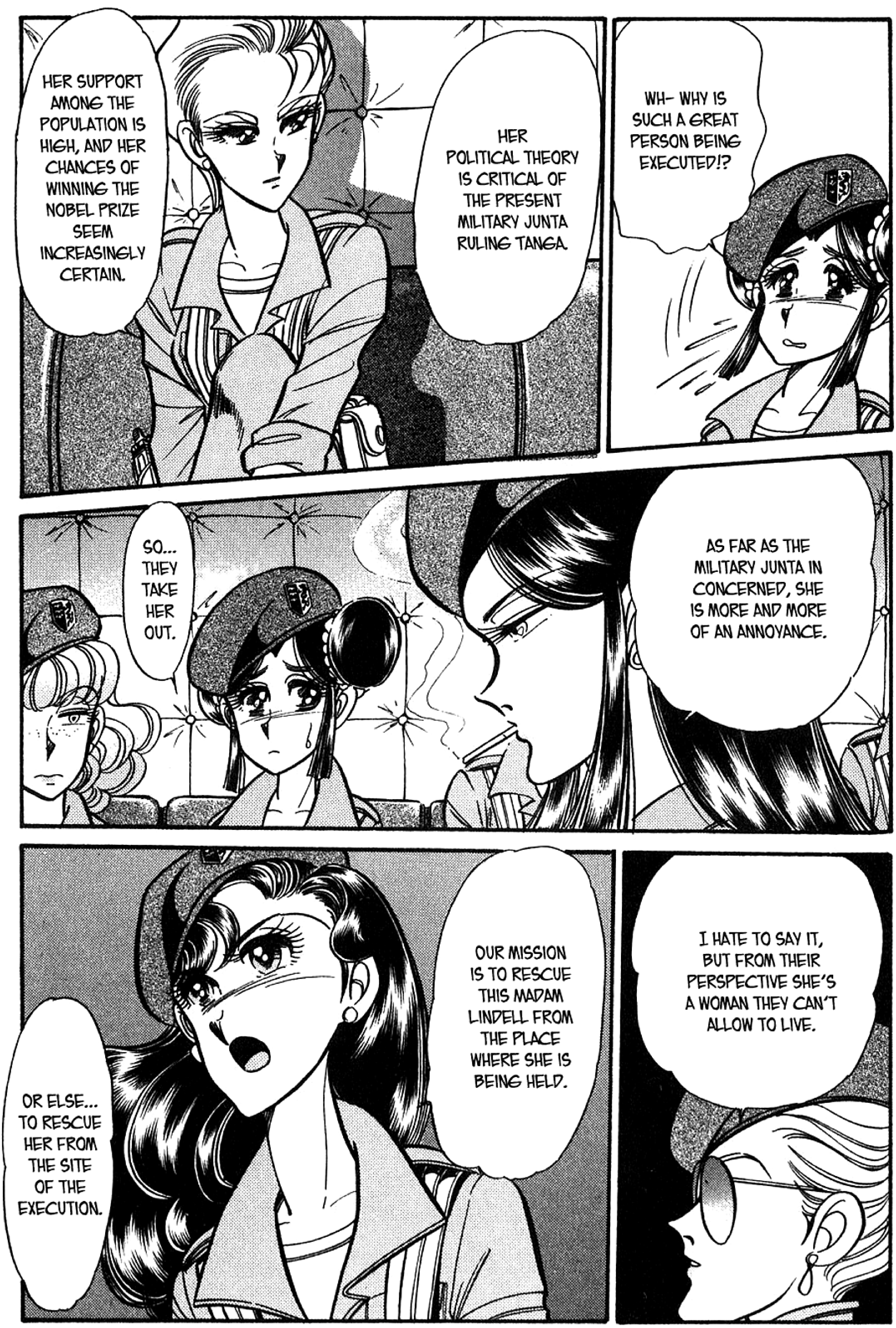


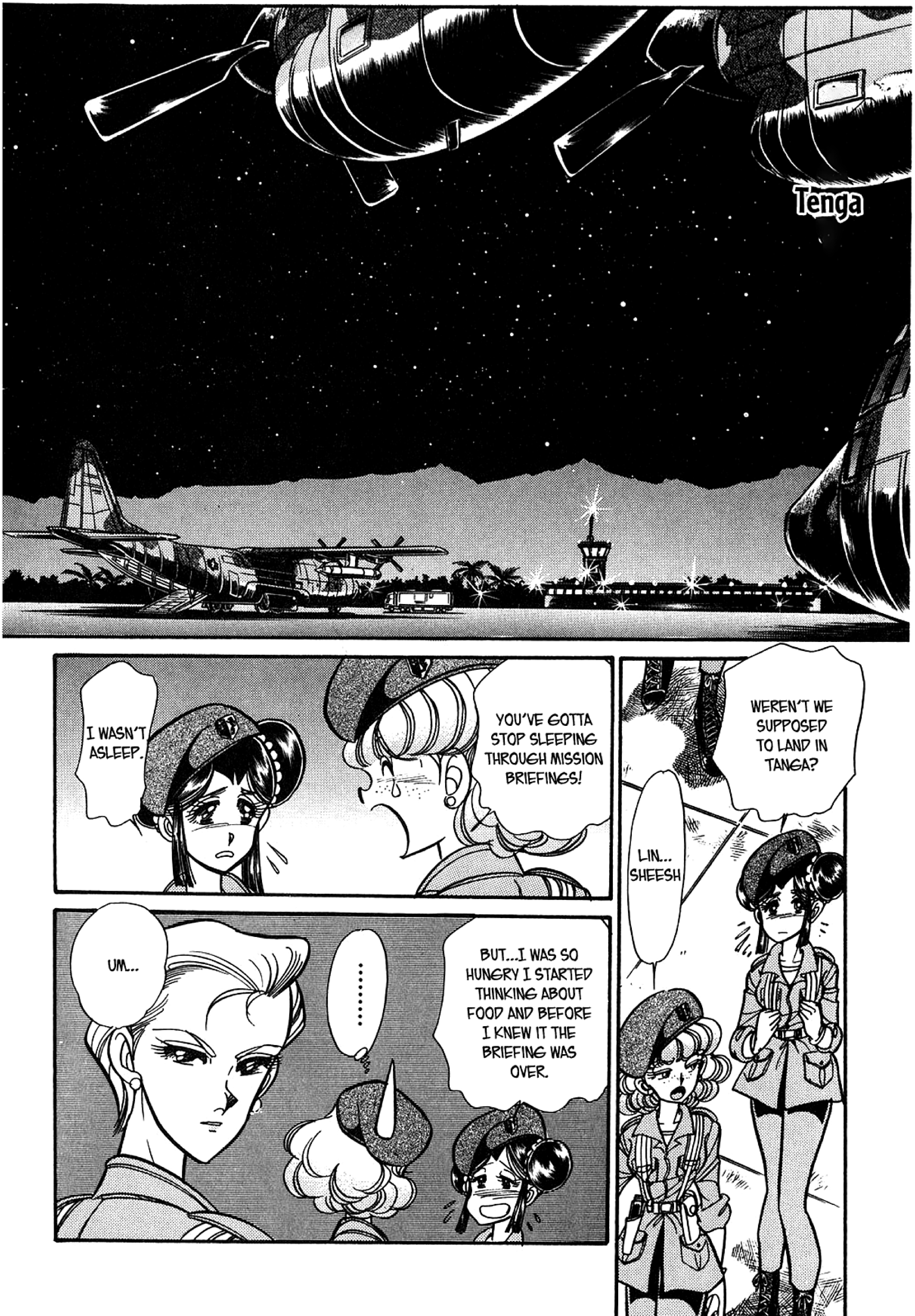

AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS ARE PUTTING AS MUCH EFFORT AS THEY CAN INTO CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS.
BUT THE GOVERNMENT OF TANGA IS TAKING A HARD LINE.

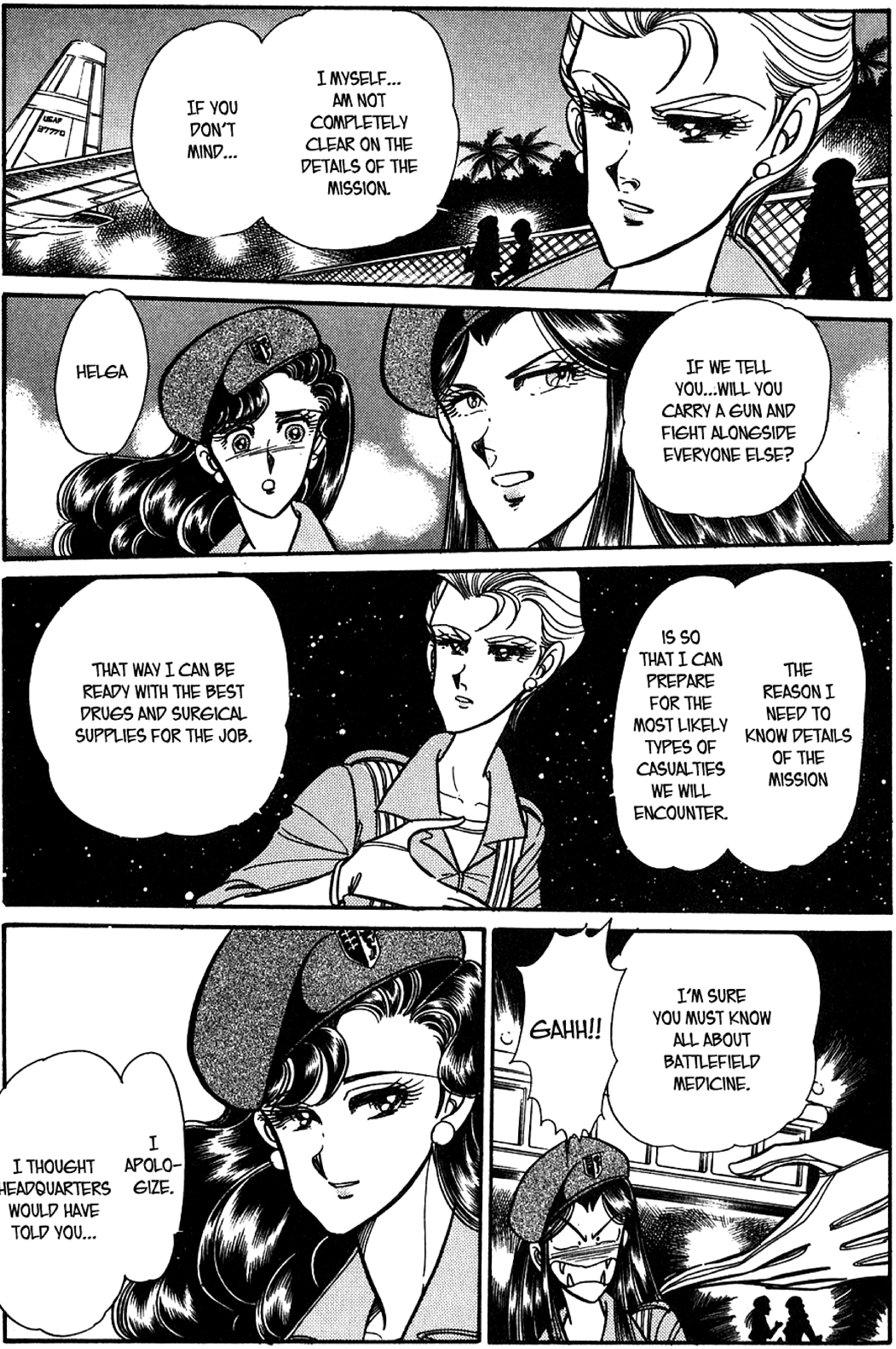

TENGA
TANGA
EVEN IF THEY ARE EXPELLED FROM THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH, THEY HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF CHANGING THEIR POLICY.
ON FRIDAY THEY WILL EXECUTE MADAM LINDELL.

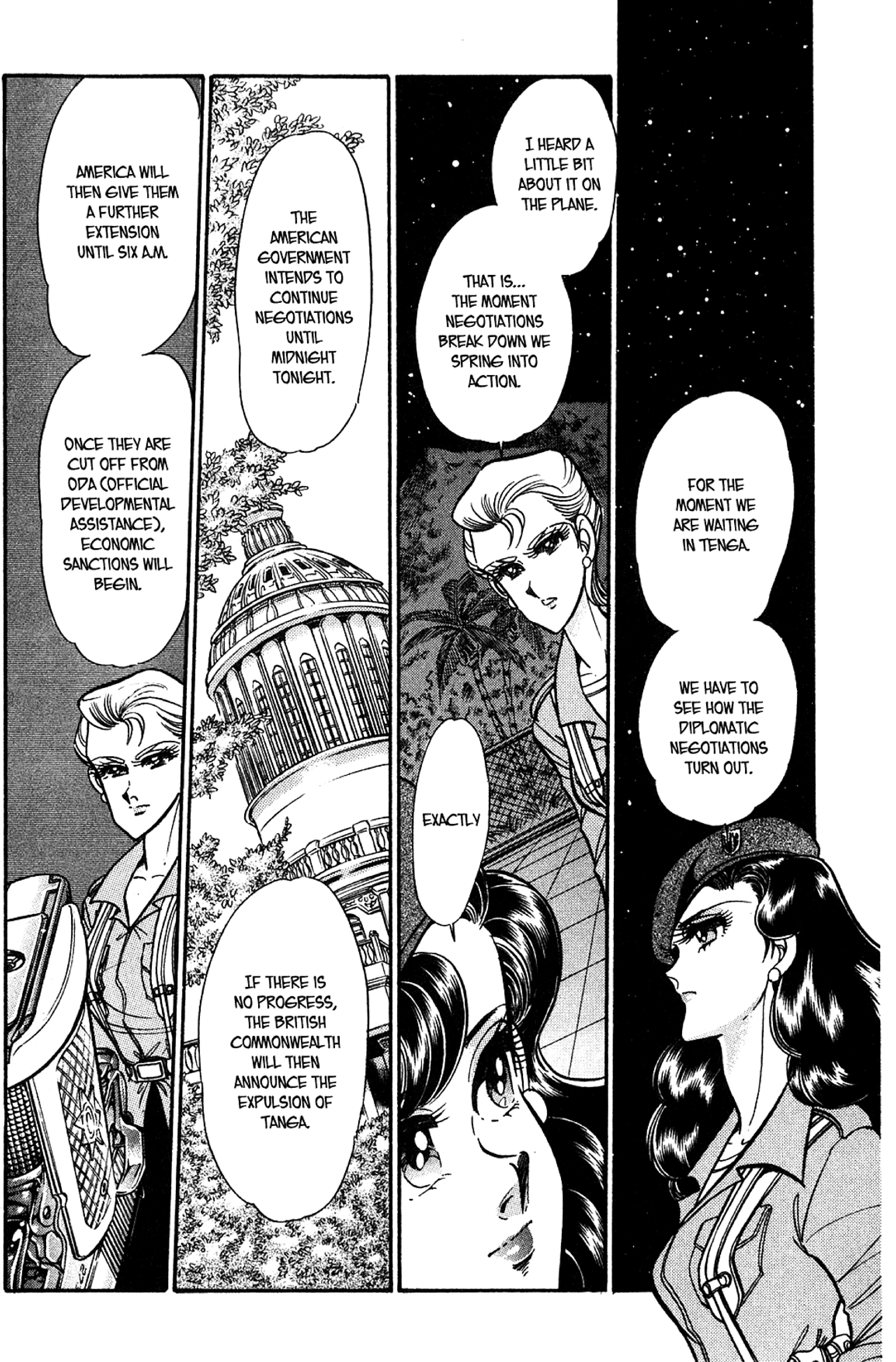

I HEAR SHE IS A KEY FIGURE. WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS SHE?
YOU'RE ASKING ME?

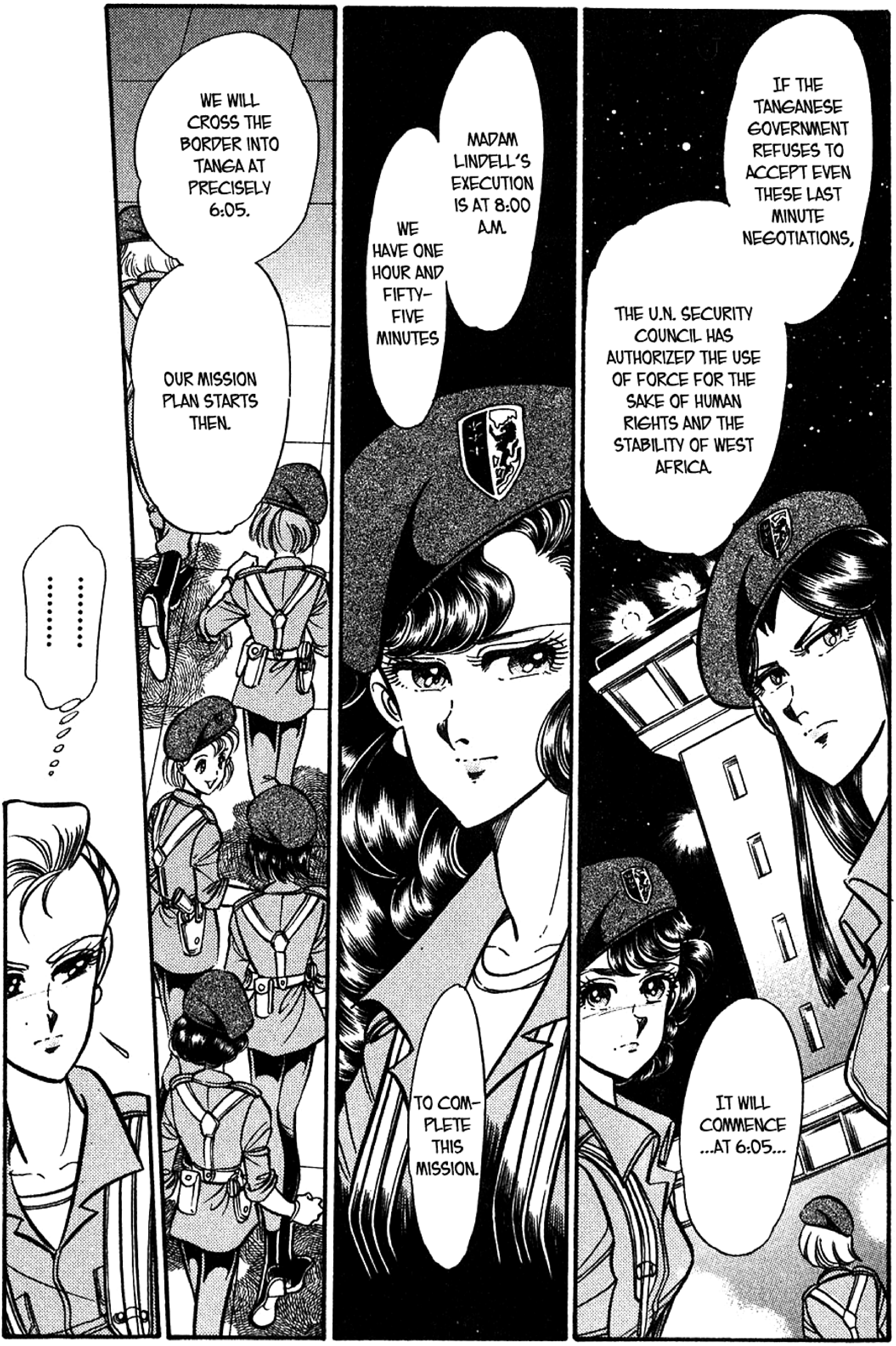

SHE'S A TANGANESE POLITICAL SCHOLAR. SHE'S ALSO A LITERARY SCHOLAR...
HER WORK IN AFRICAN ETHNIC STUDIES AND POLITICAL SCIENCE HAVE MADE HER A CANDIDATE FOR THE NOBEL PRIZE.

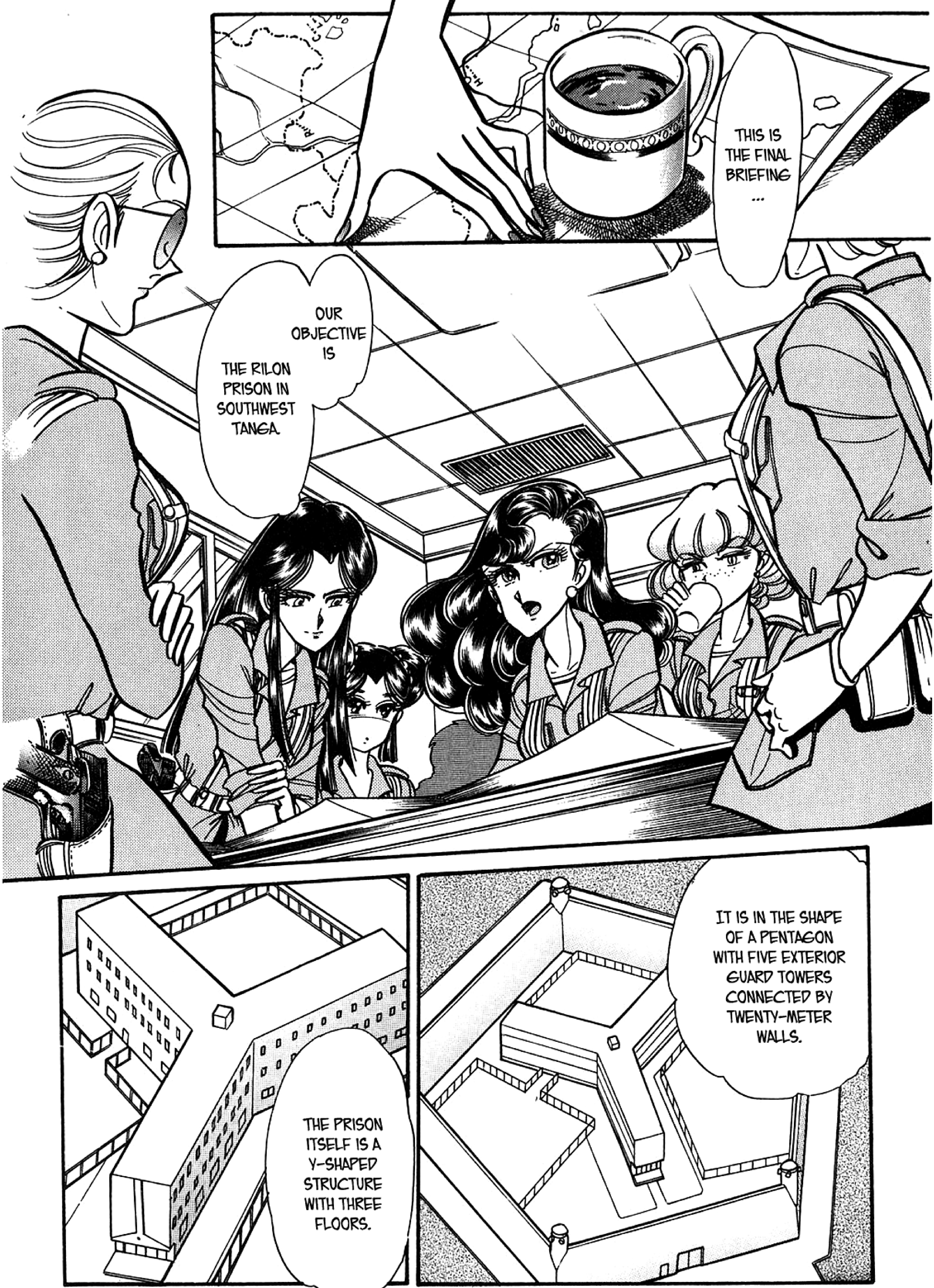

WH- WHY IS SUCH A GREAT PERSON BEING EXECUTED!?
HER POLITICAL THEORY IS CRITICAL OF THE PRESENT MILITARY JUNTA RULING TANGA.
HER SUPPORT AMONG THE POPULATION IS HIGH, AND HER CHANCES OF WINNING THE NOBEL PRIZE SEEM INCREASINGLY CERTAIN.
AS FAR AS THE MILITARY JUNTA IN CONCERNED, SHE IS MORE AND MORE OF AN ANNOYANCE.
SO... THEY TAKE HER OUT.
I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT FROM THEIR PERSPECTIVE SHE'S A WOMAN THEY CAN'T ALLOW TO LIVE.
OUR MISSION IS TO RESCUE THIS MADAM LINDELL FROM THE PLACE WHERE SHE IS BEING HELD.
OR ELSE... TO RESCUE HER FROM THE SITE OF THE EXECUTION.

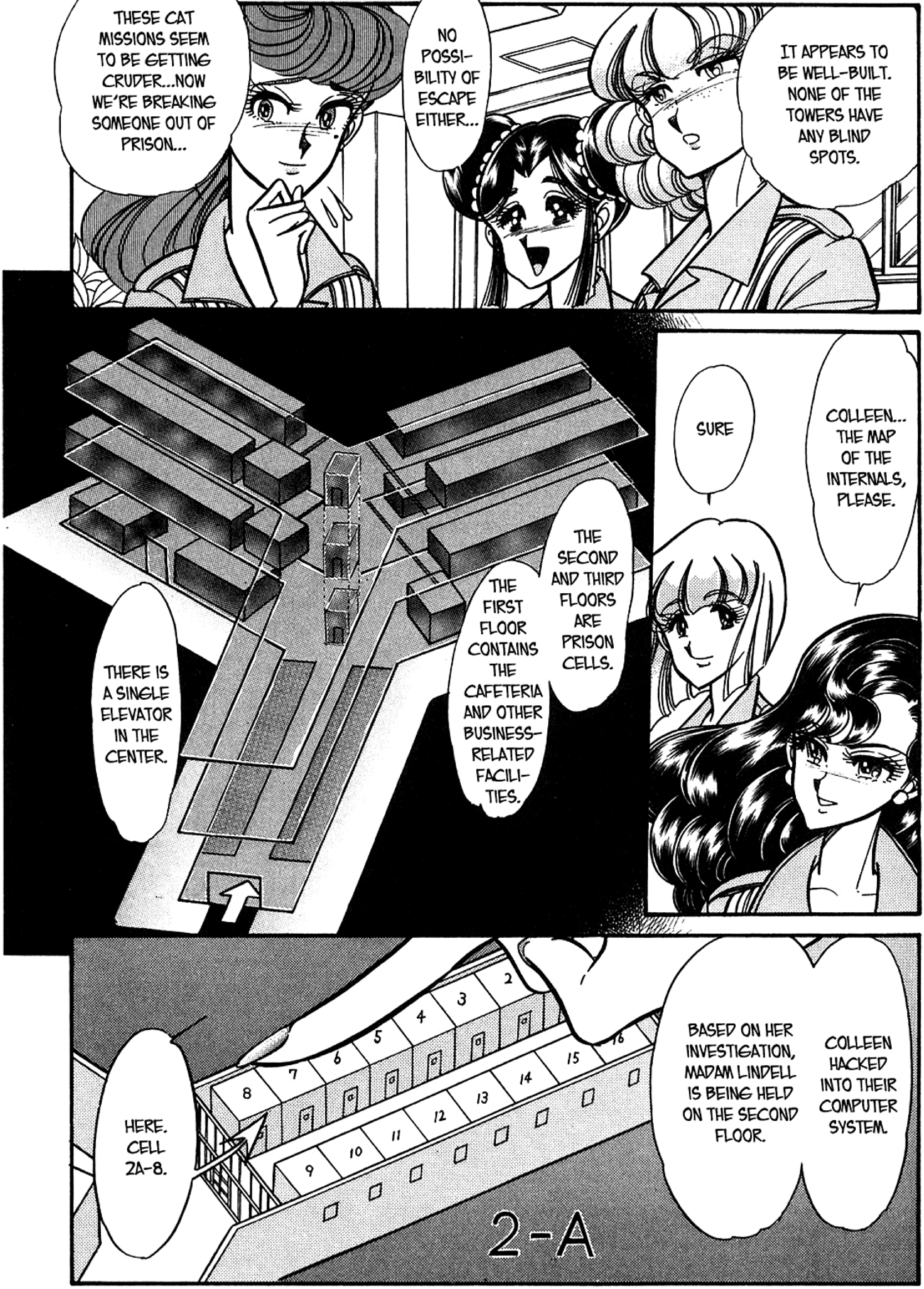

Tenga
WEREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO LAND IN TANGA?
LIN... SHEESH
YOU'VE GOTTA STOP SLEEPING THROUGH MISSION BRIEFINGS!
I WASN'T ASLEEP.
BUT...I WAS SO HUNGRY I STARTED THINKING ABOUT FOOD AND BEFORE I KNEW IT THE BRIEFING WAS OVER.
....
UM...

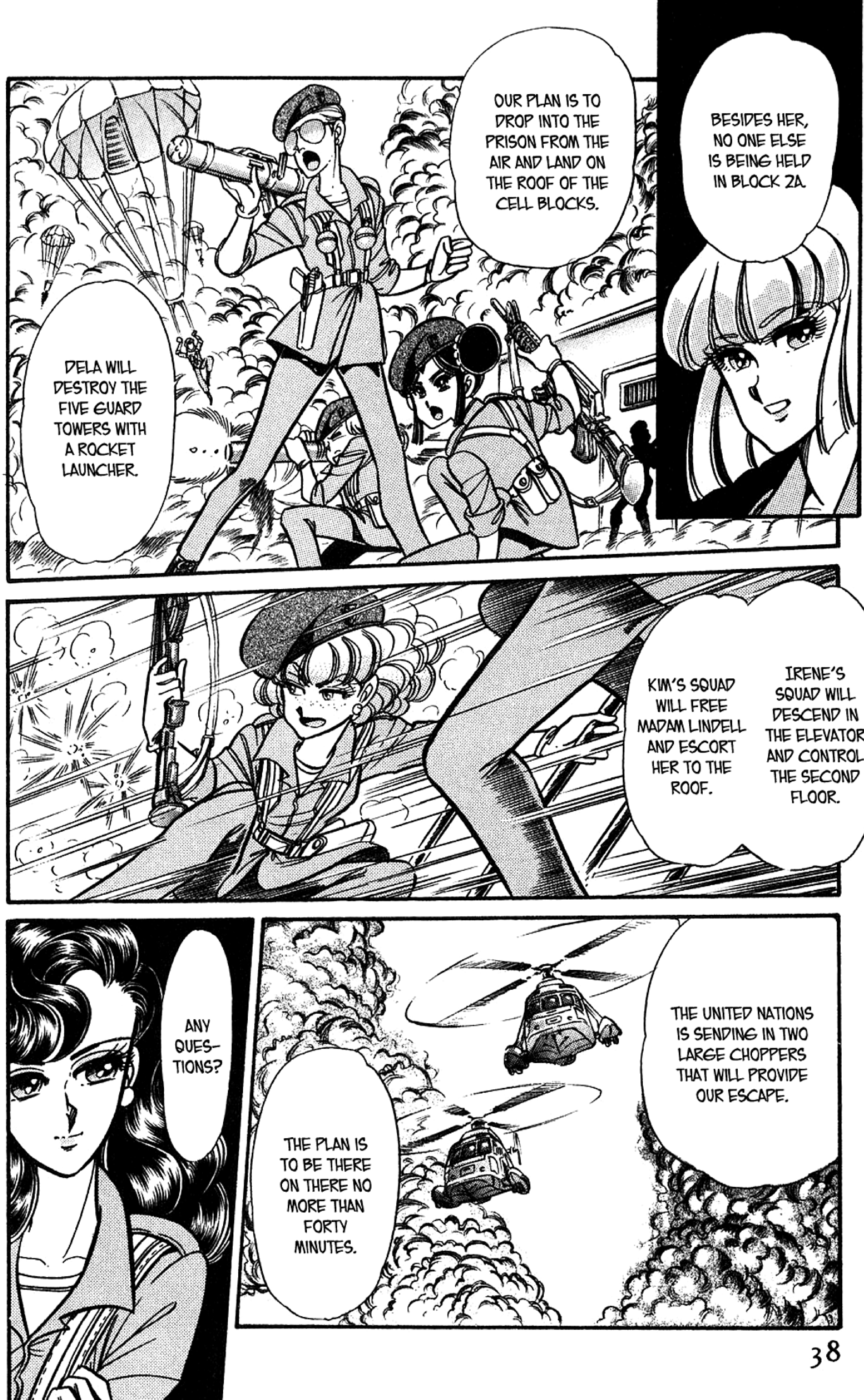

USAF 37770
I MYSELF... AM NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR ON THE DETAILS OF THE MISSION.
IF YOU DON'T MIND...
IF WE TELL YOU...WILL YOU CARRY A GUN AND FIGHT ALONGSIDE EVERYONE ELSE?
HELGA
THE REASON I NEED TO KNOW DETAILS OF THE MISSION
IS SO THAT I CAN PREPARE FOR THE MOST LIKELY TYPES OF CASUALTIES WE WILL ENCOUNTER.
THAT WAY I CAN BE READY WITH THE BEST DRUGS AND SURGICAL SUPPLIES FOR THE JOB.
I'M SURE YOU MUST KNOW ALL ABOUT BATTLEFIELD MEDICINE.
GAHH!!
I APOLOGIZE.
I THOUGHT HEADQUARTERS WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU...

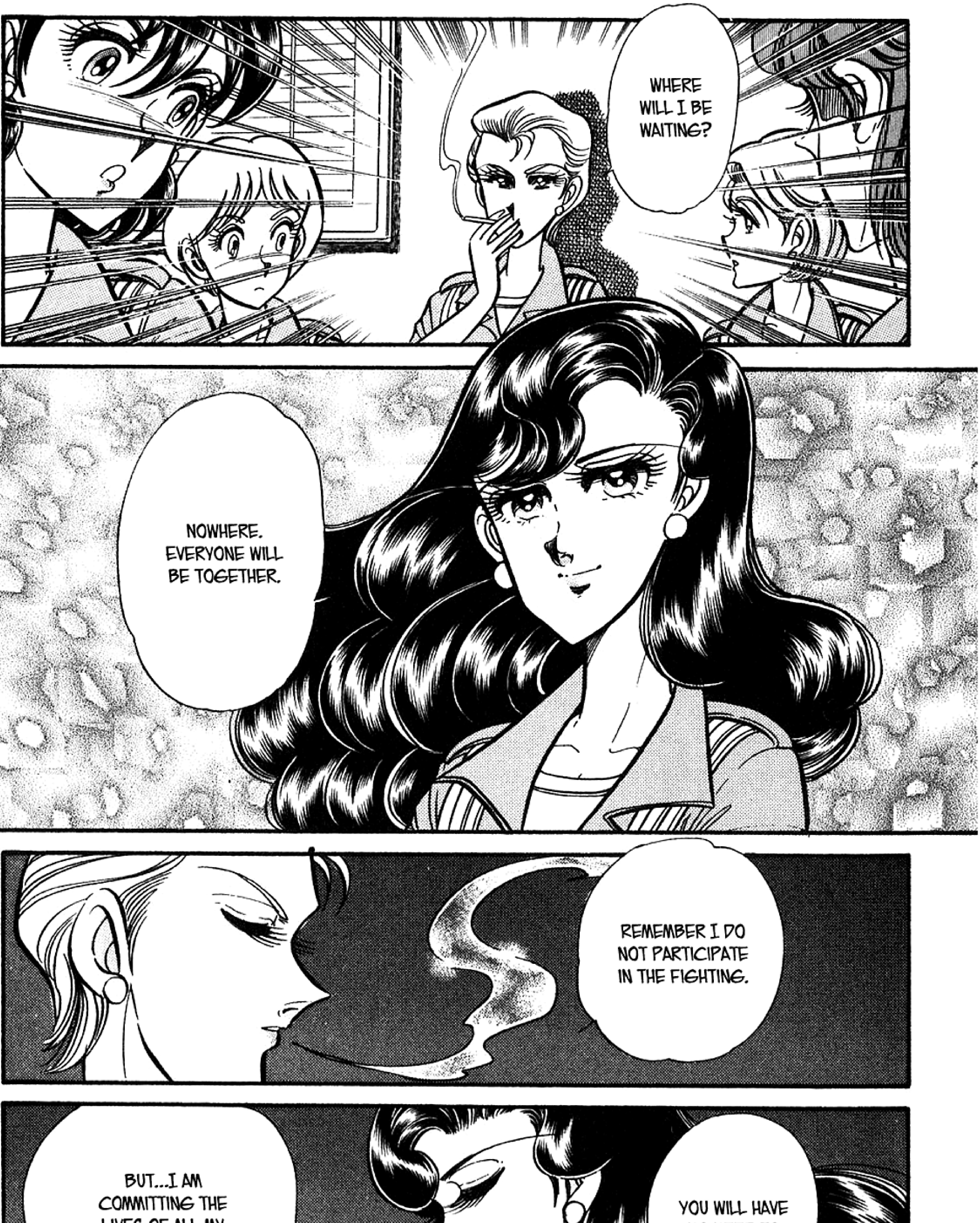

FOR THE MOMENT WE ARE WAITING IN TENGA.
WE HAVE TO SEE HOW THE DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS TURN OUT.
I HEARD A LITTLE BIT ABOUT IT ON THE PLANE.
THAT IS... THE MOMENT NEGOTIATIONS BREAK DOWN WE SPRING INTO ACTION.
EXACTLY
THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL MIDNIGHT TONIGHT.
IF THERE IS NO PROGRESS, THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH WILL THEN ANNOUNCE THE EXPULSION OF TANGA.
AMERICA WILL THEN GIVE THEM A FURTHER EXTENSION UNTIL SIX A.M.
ONCE THEY ARE CUT OFF FROM ODA (OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE), ECONOMIC SANCTIONS WILL BEGIN.

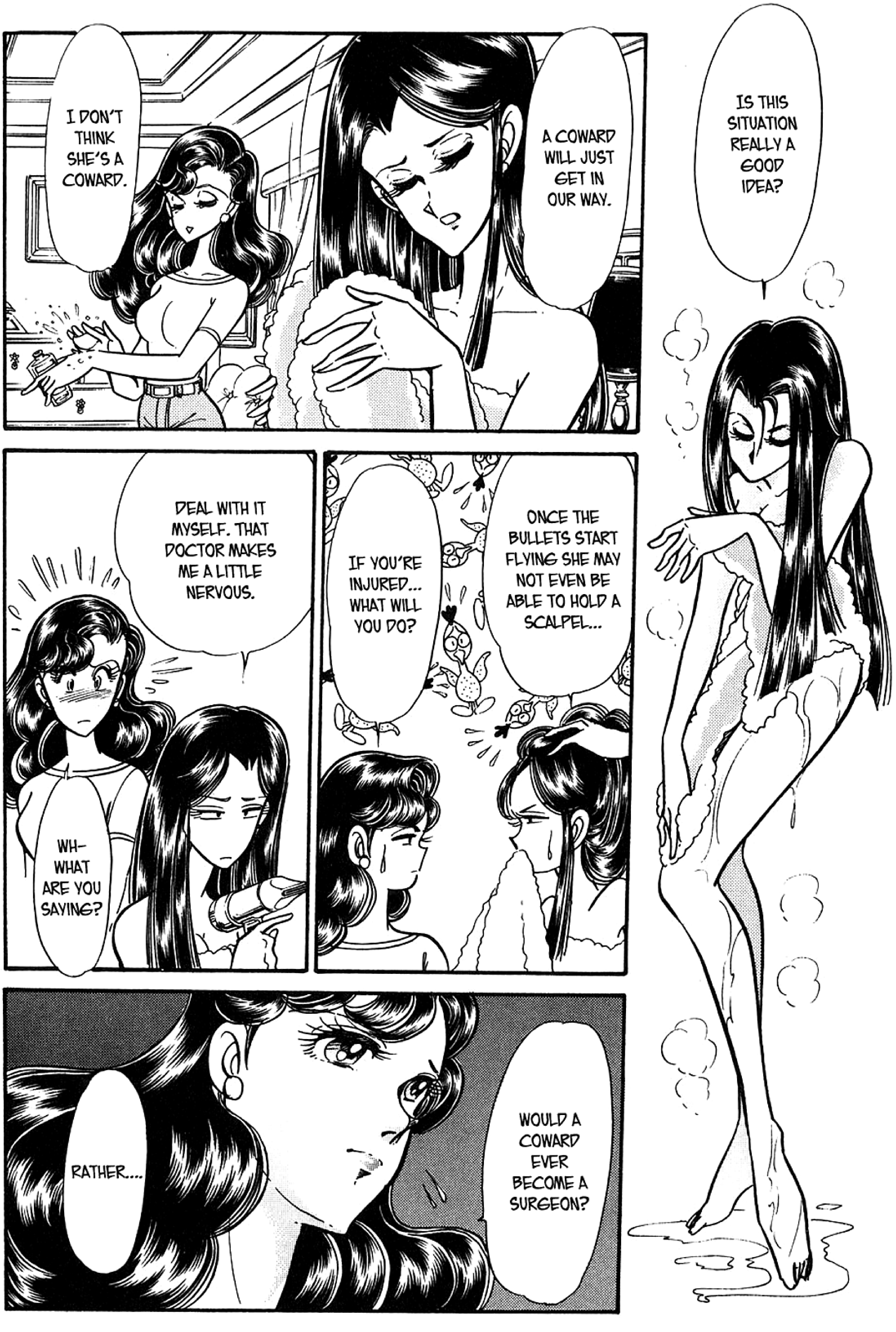

IF THE TANGANESE GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO ACCEPT EVEN THESE LAST MINUTE NEGOTIATIONS,
THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL HAS AUTHORIZED THE USE OF FORCE FOR THE SAKE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE STABILITY OF WEST AFRICA.
IT WILL COMMENCE ...AT 6:05...
MADAM LINDELL'S EXECUTION IS AT 8:00 A.M.
WE HAVE ONE HOUR AND FIFTY-FIVE MINUTES
TO COMPLETE THIS MISSION.
WE WILL CROSS THE BORDER INTO TANGA AT PRECISELY 6:05.
OUR MISSION PLAN STARTS THEN.
……

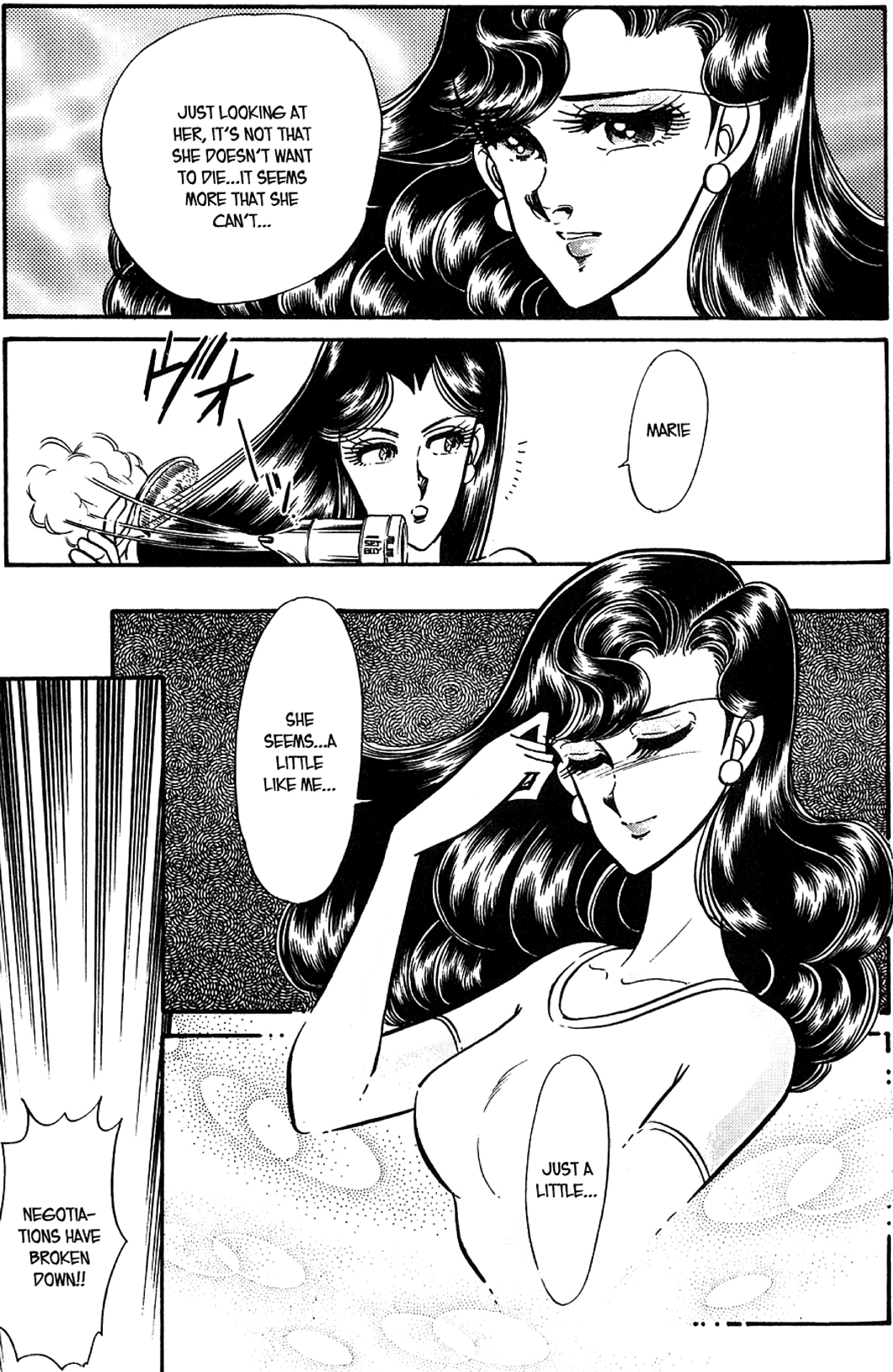

THIS IS THE FINAL BRIEFING ...
OUR OBJECTIVE IS
THE RILON PRISON IN SOUTHWEST TANGA.
IT IS IN THE SHAPE OF A PENTAGON WITH FIVE EXTERIOR GUARD TOWERS CONNECTED BY TWENTY-METER WALLS.
THE PRISON ITSELF IS A Y-SHAPED STRUCTURE WITH THREE FLOORS.

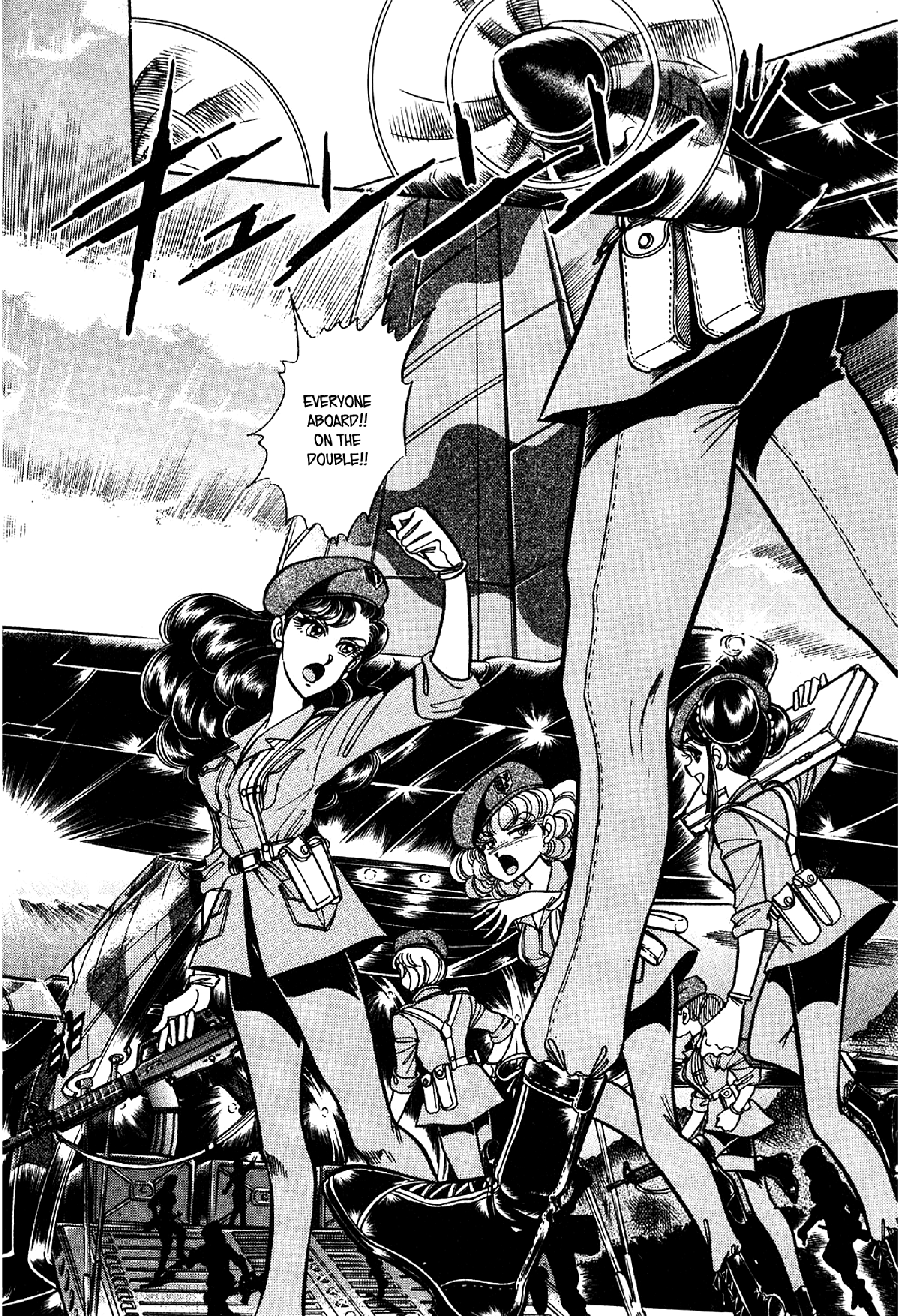

THESE CAT MISSIONS SEEM TO BE GETTING CRUDER...NOW WE'RE BREAKING SOMEONE OUT OF PRISON...
NO POSSIBILITY OF ESCAPE EITHER...
IT APPEARS TO BE WELL-BUILT. NONE OF THE TOWERS HAVE ANY BLIND SPOTS.
COLLEEN... THE MAP OF THE INTERNALS, PLEASE.
SURE
THE SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS ARE PRISON CELLS.
THE FIRST FLOOR CONTAINS THE CAFETERIA AND OTHER BUSINESS-RELATED FACILITIES.
THERE IS A SINGLE ELEVATOR IN THE CENTER.
COLLEEN HACKED INTO THEIR COMPUTER SYSTEM.
BASED ON HER INVESTIGATION, MADAM LINDELL IS BEING HELD ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
HERE. CELL 2A-8.
2-A

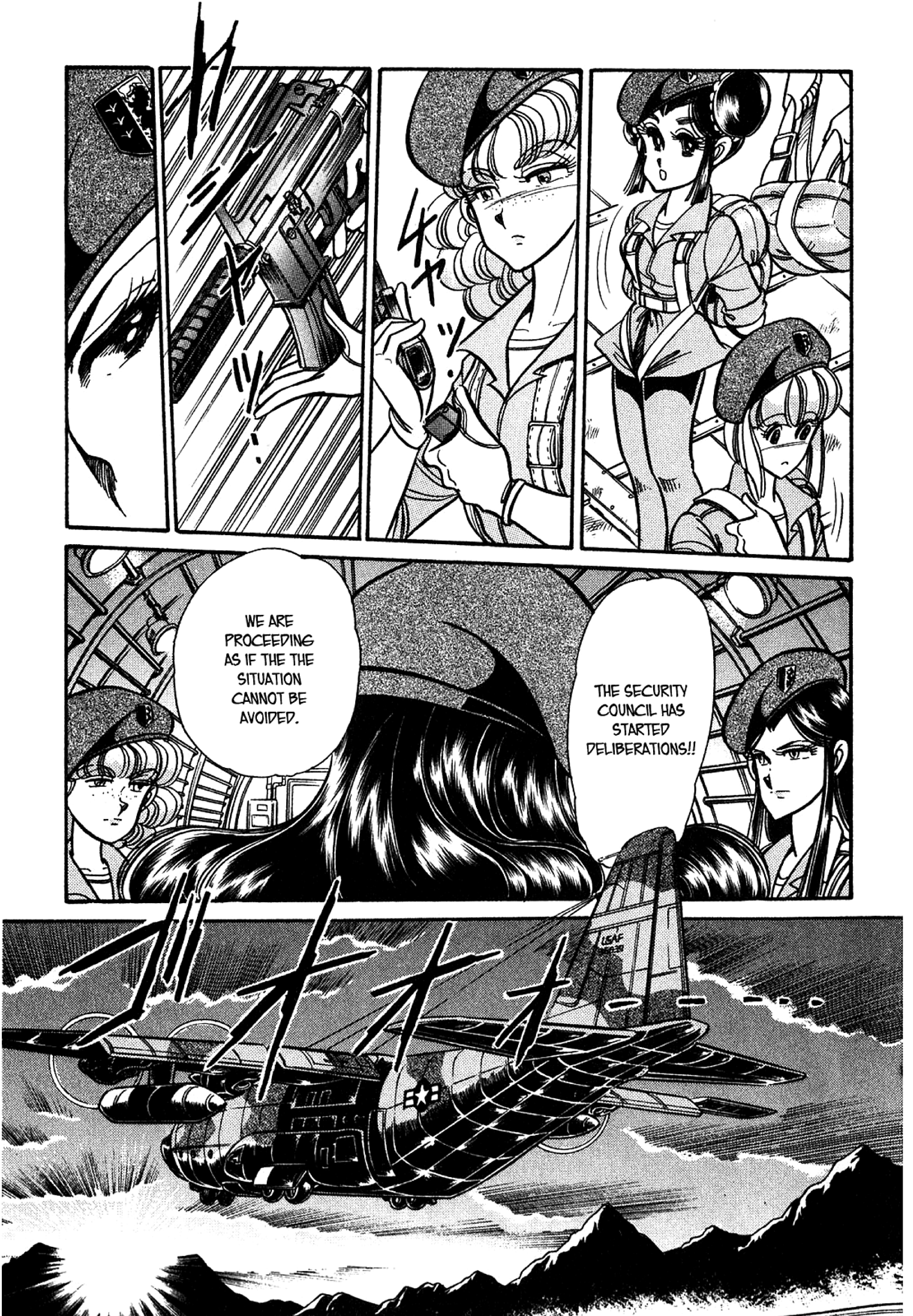

BESIDES HER, NO ONE ELSE IS BEING HELD IN BLOCK 2A.
OUR PLAN IS TO DROP INTO THE PRISON FROM THE AIR AND LAND ON THE ROOF OF THE CELL BLOCKS.
DELA WILL DESTROY THE FIVE GUARD TOWERS WITH A ROCKET LAUNCHER.
IRENE'S SQUAD WILL DESCEND IN THE ELEVATOR AND CONTROL THE SECOND FLOOR.
KIM'S SQUAD WILL FREE MADAM LINDELL AND ESCORT HER TO THE ROOF.
THE UNITED NATIONS IS SENDING IN TWO LARGE CHOPPERS THAT WILL PROVIDE OUR ESCAPE.
THE PLAN IS TO BE THERE ON THERE NO MORE THAN FORTY MINUTES.
ANY QUES-TIONS?

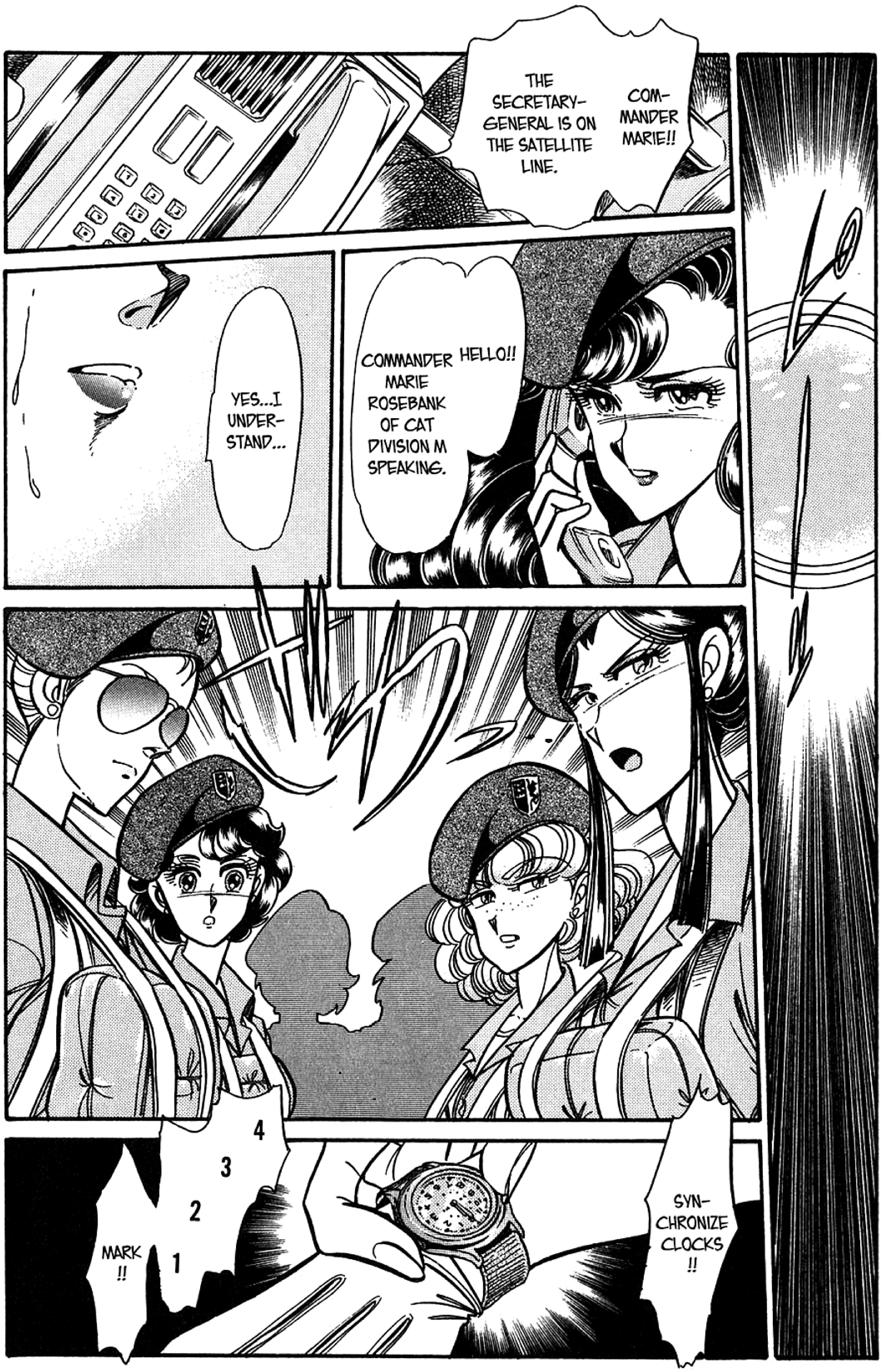

WHERE WILL I BE WAITING?
NOWHERE. EVERYONE WILL BE TOGETHER.
REMEMBER I DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE FIGHTING.
YOU WILL HAVE NO NEED TO FIRE A GUN.
BUT...I AM COMMITTING THE LIVES OF ALL MY TROOPS INTO YOUR HANDS, SO I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

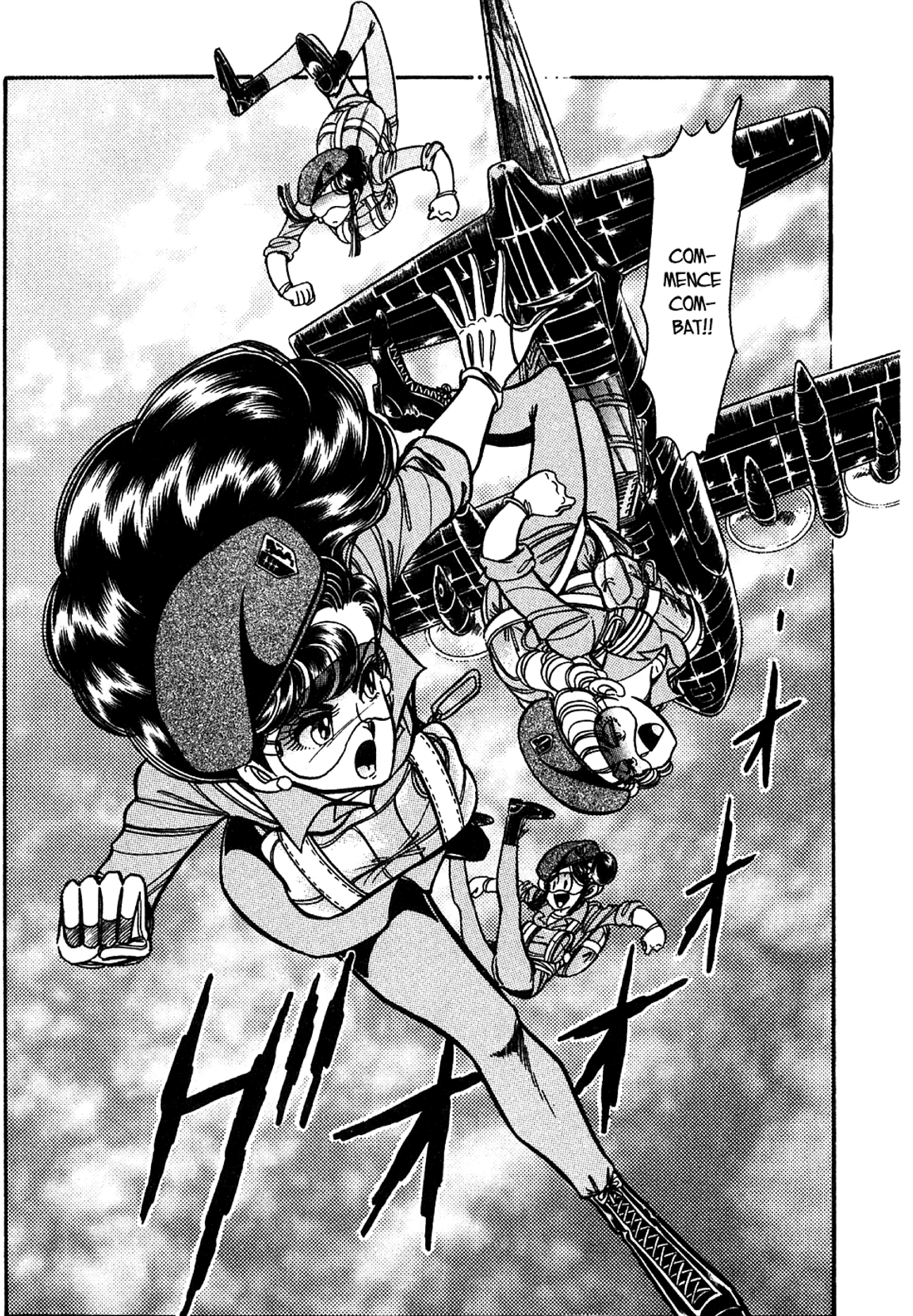

IS THIS SITUATION REALLY A GOOD IDEA?
A COWARD WILL JUST GET IN OUR WAY.
I DON'T THINK SHE'S A COWARD.
ONCE THE BULLETS START FLYING SHE MAY NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO HOLD A SCALPEL...
IF YOU'RE INJURED... WHAT WILL YOU DO?
DEAL WITH IT MYSELF. THAT DOCTOR MAKES ME A LITTLE NERVOUS.
WH- WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
WOULD A COWARD EVER BECOME A SURGEON?
RATHER....


JUST LOOKING AT HER, IT'S NOT THAT SHE DOESN'T WANT TO DIE...IT SEEMS MORE THAT SHE CAN'T...
MARIE
ヴォ
SHE SEEMS...A LITTLE LIKE ME...
JUST A LITTLE...
NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BROKEN DOWN!!

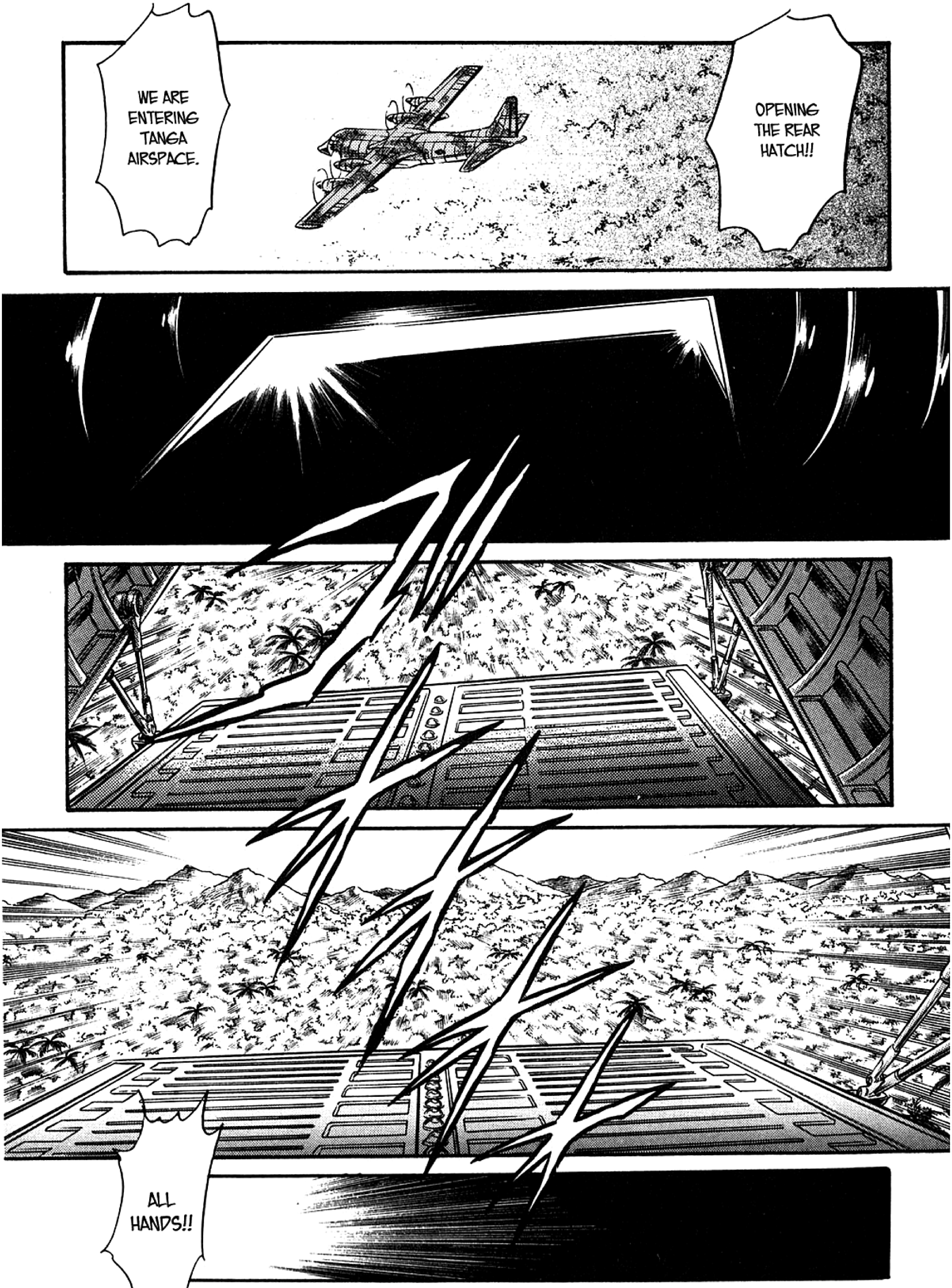

キューーーン
EVERYONE ABOARD!! ON THE DOUBLE!!


ガシャッ!!
THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS STARTED DELIBERATIONS!!
WE ARE PROCEEDING AS IF THE THE SITUATION CANNOT BE AVOIDED.
USAF


COMMANDER MARIE!!
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IS ON THE SATELLITE LINE.
HELLO!!
COMMANDER MARIE ROSEBANK OF CAT DIVISION M SPEAKING.
YES...I UNDERSTAND...
SYNCHRONIZE CLOCKS!!
4
3
2
1
MARK!!

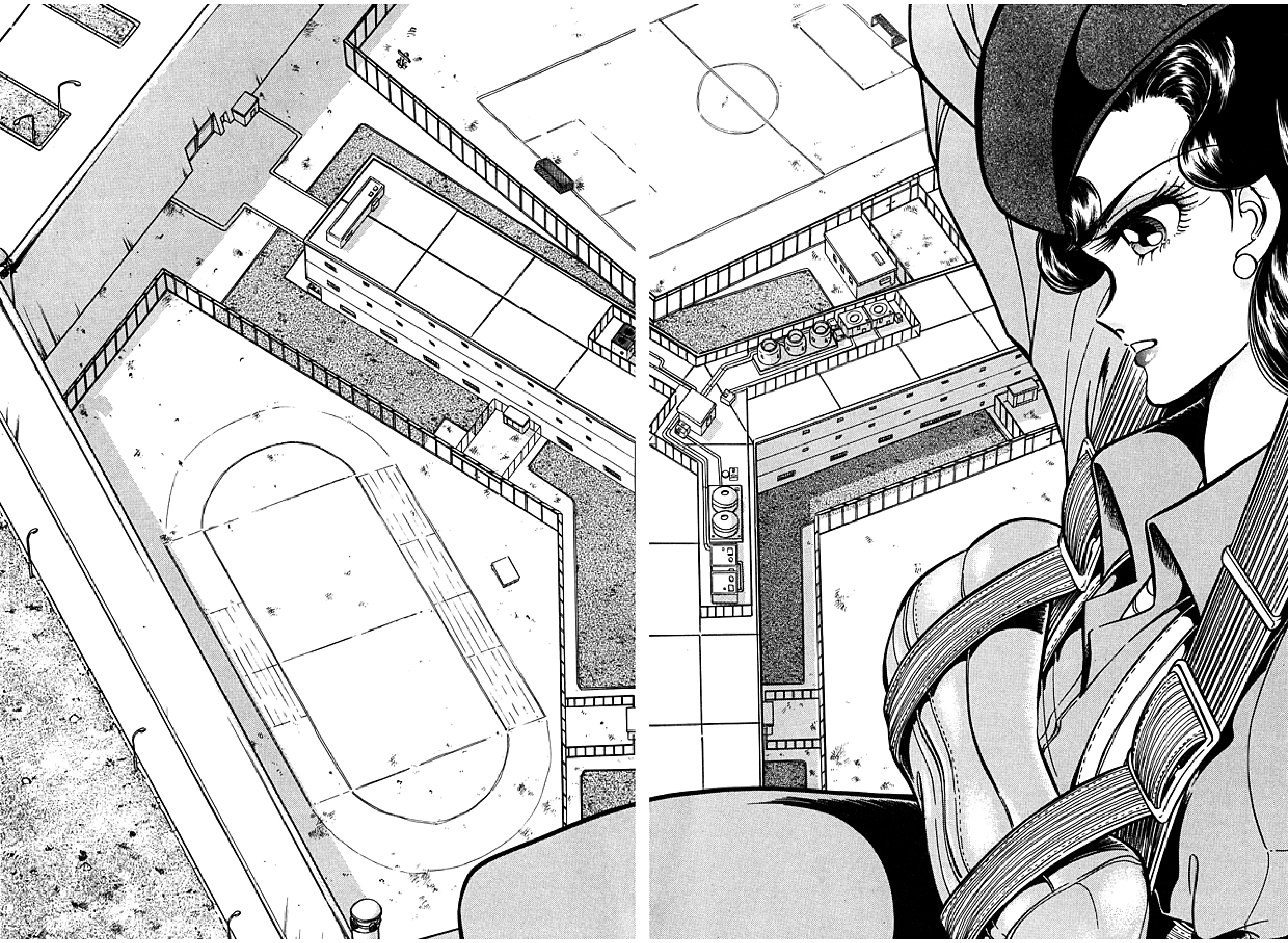

COM-
MENCE
COM-
BAT!!
ゴォオオオ

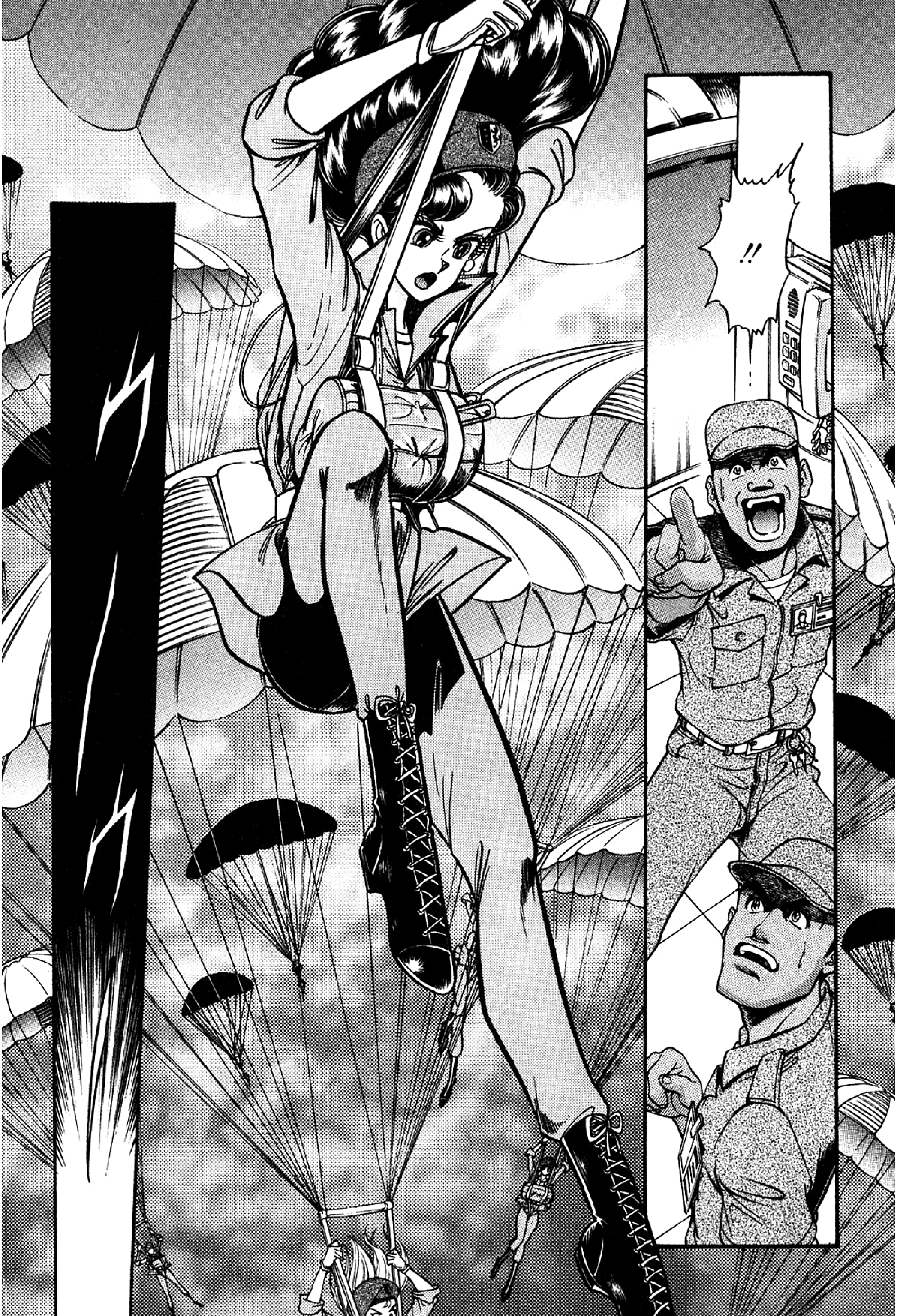
［File23：天使の持つ牙（2）　おわり］

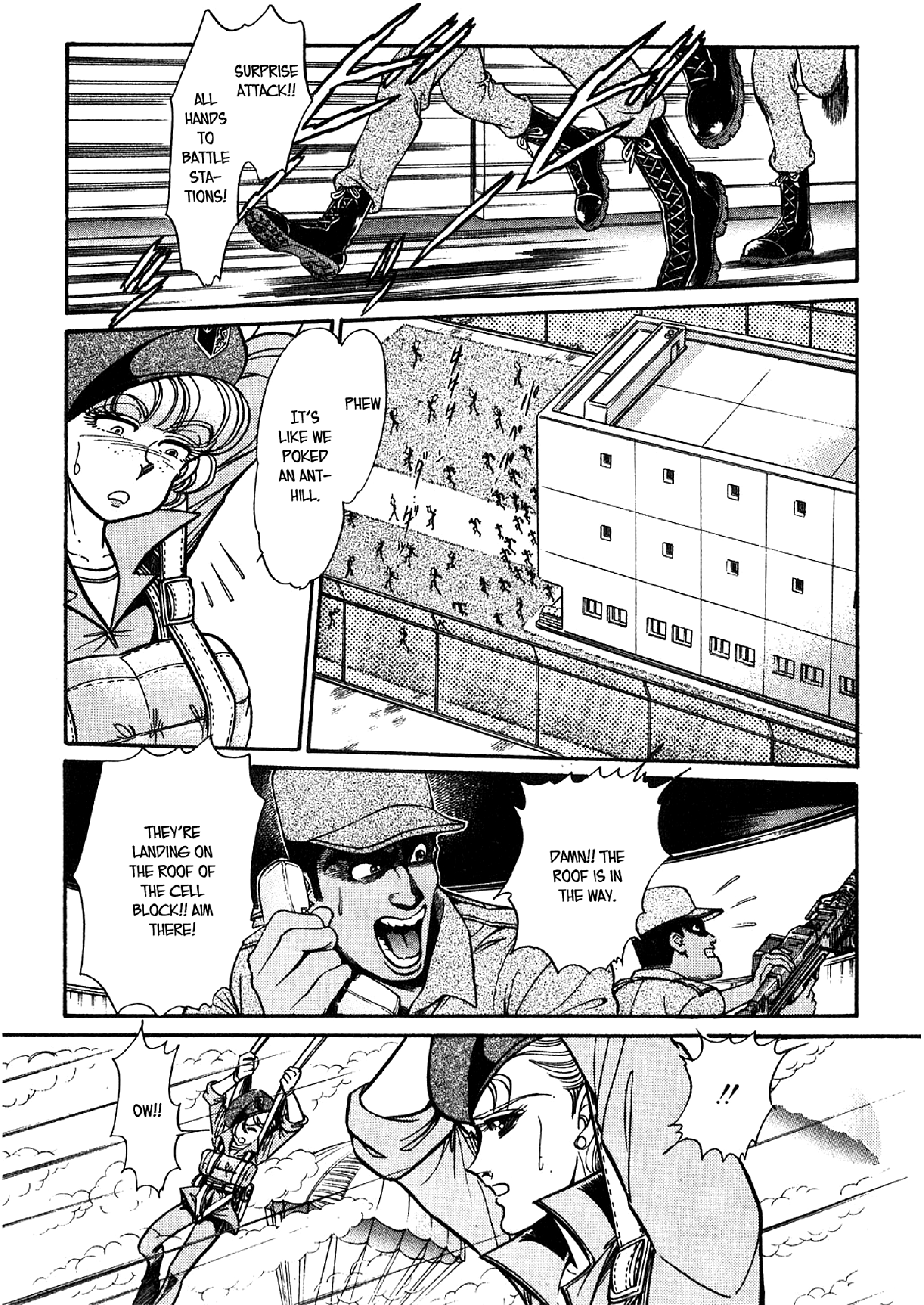

WE ARE ENTERING TANGA AIRSPACE.
OPENING THE REAR HATCH!!
ALL HANDS!!

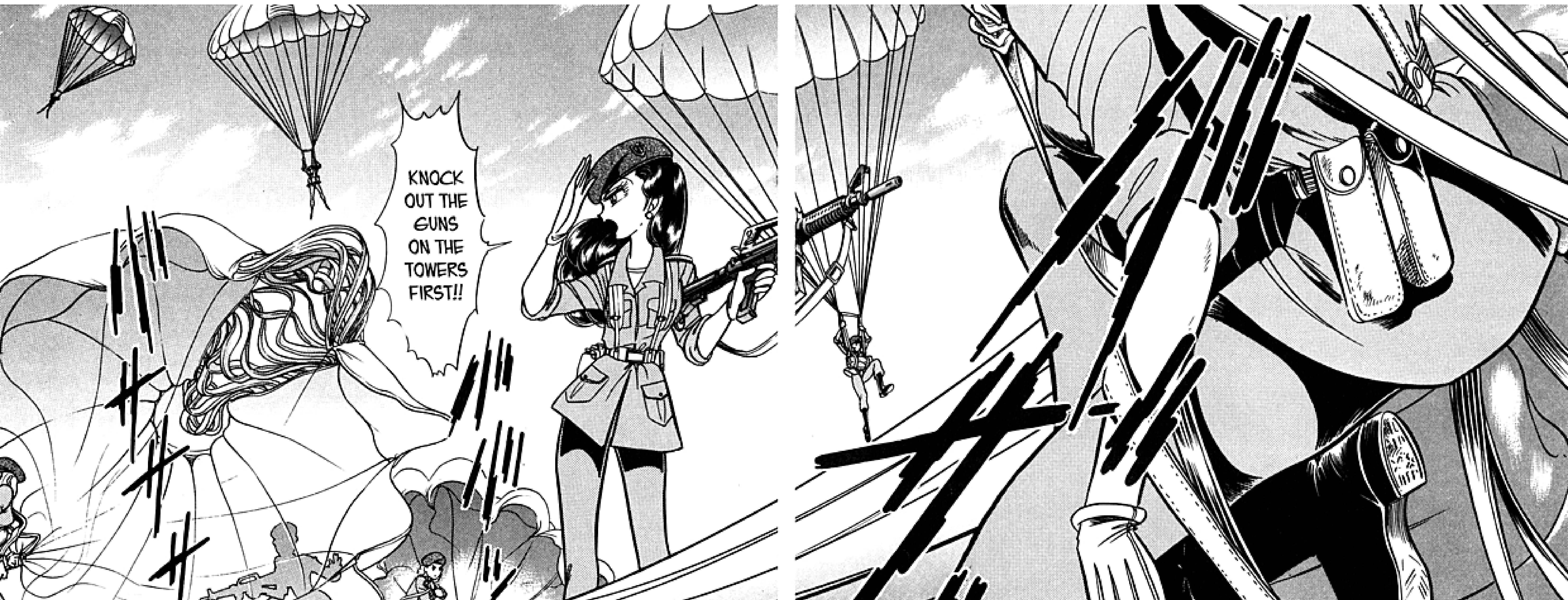
砂の薔薇
デザート・ローズ

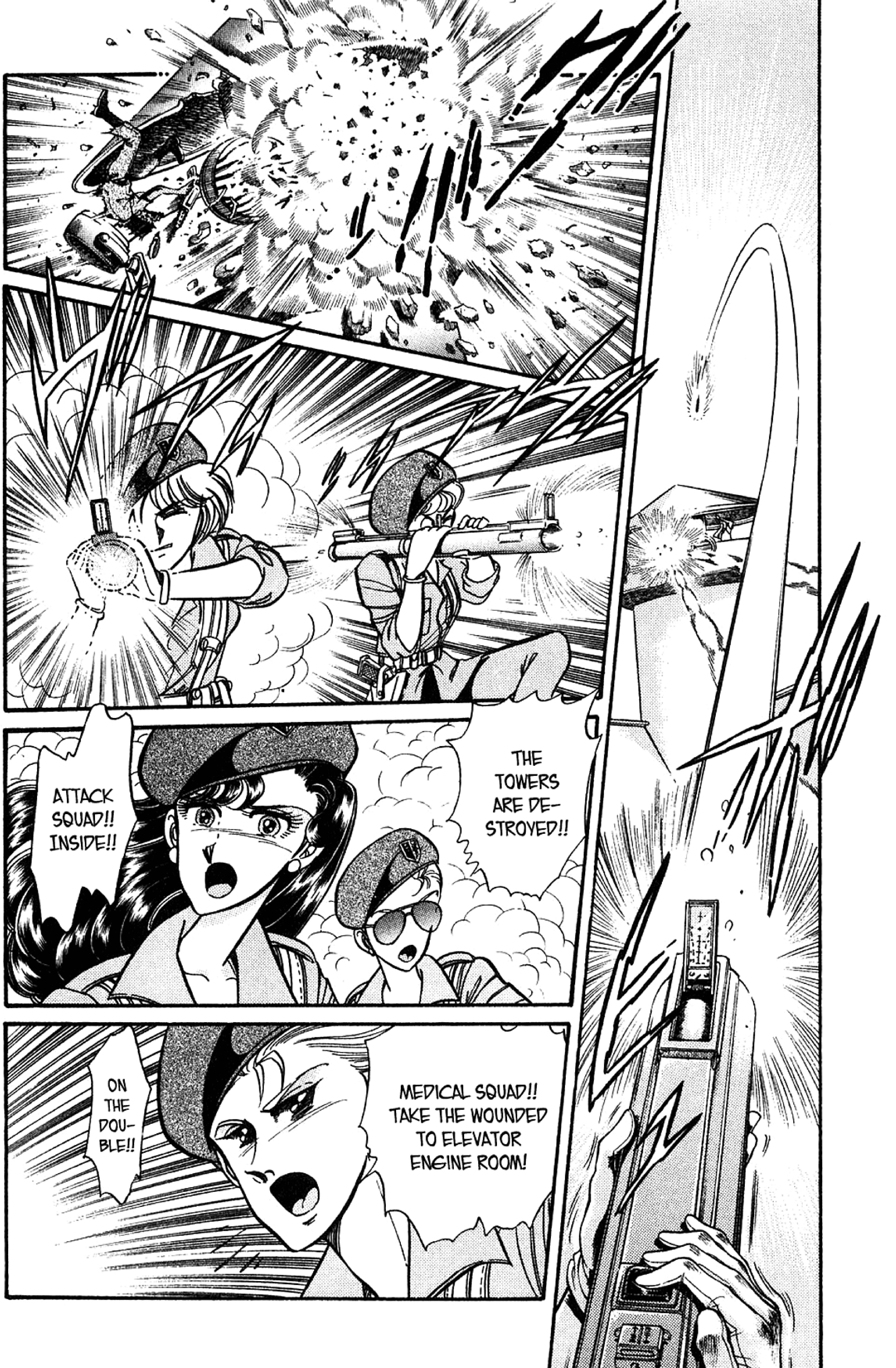
File 23: The Angel's Fang (3)

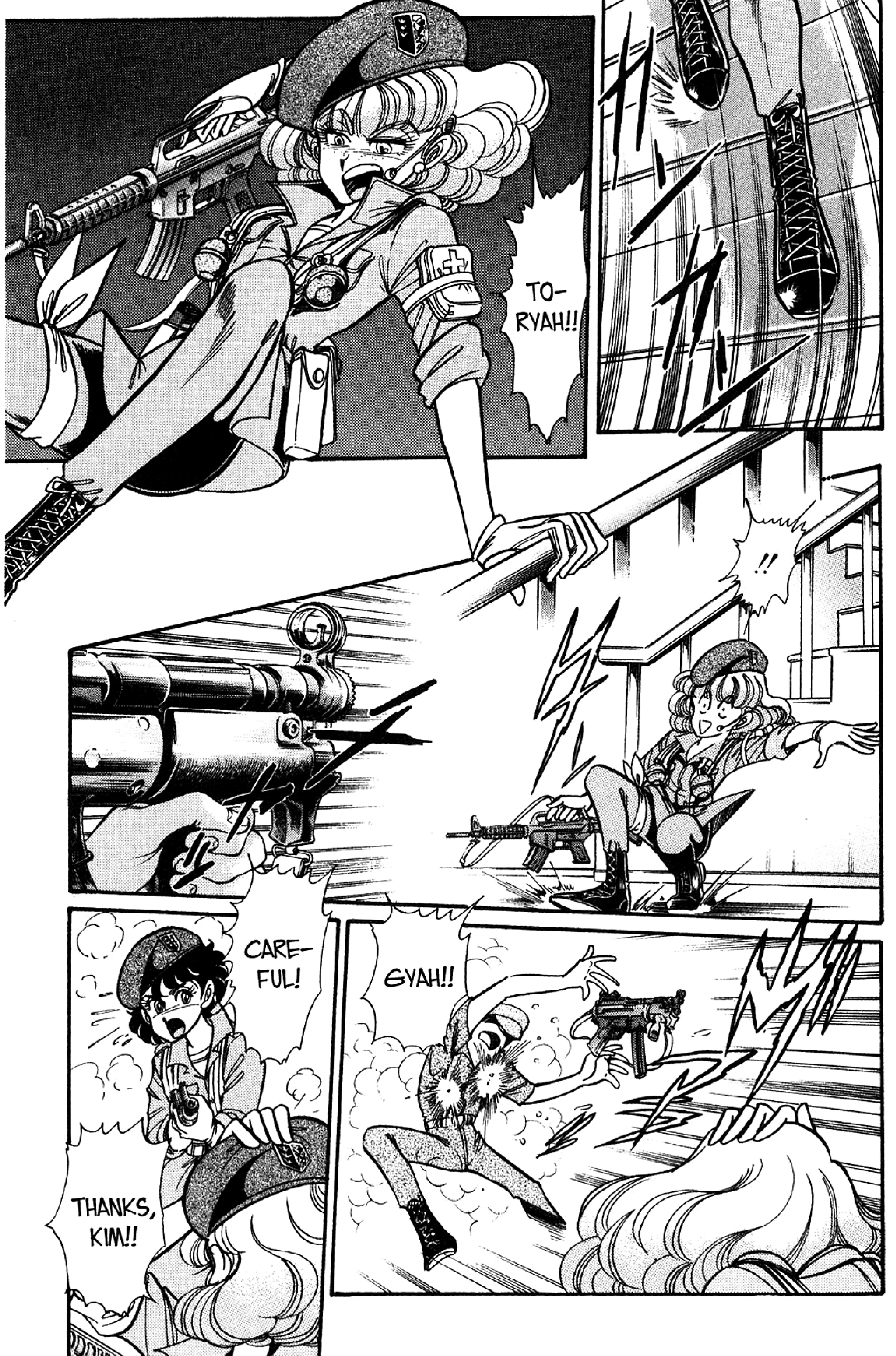


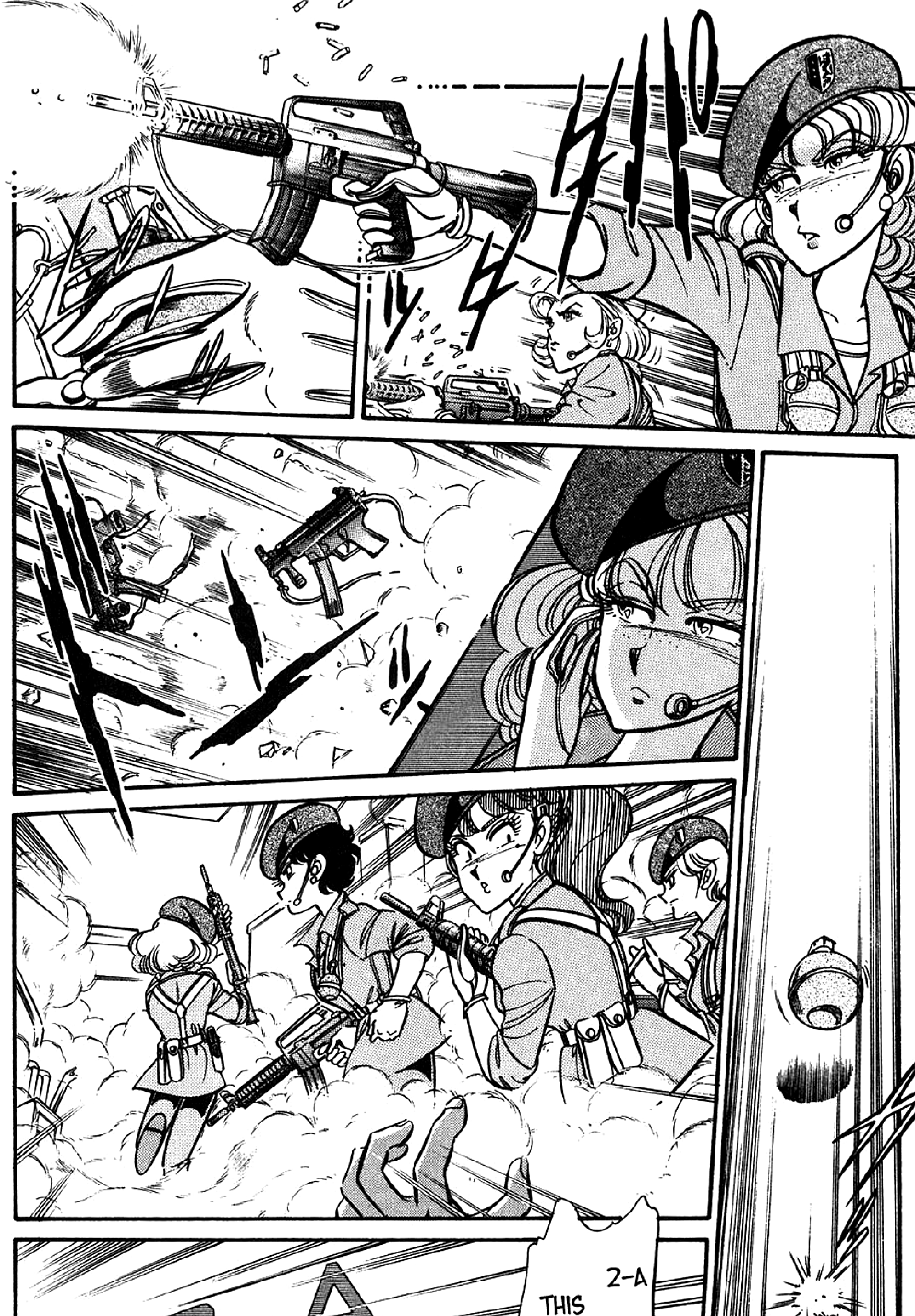


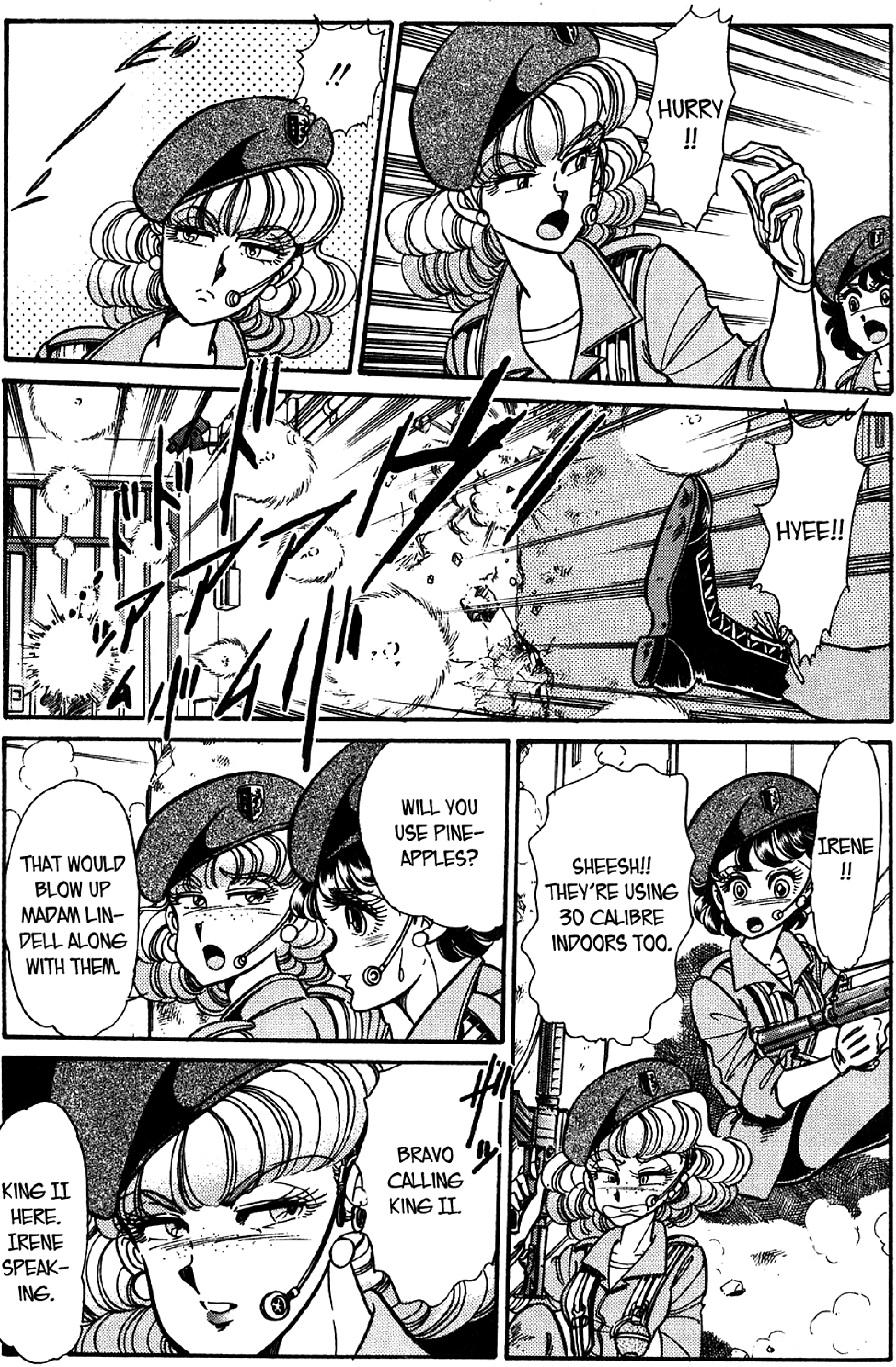

SURPRISE ATTACK!!
ALL HANDS TO BATTLE STATIONS!
PHEW
IT'S LIKE WE POKED AN ANT-HILL.
DAMN!! THE ROOF IS IN THE WAY.
THEY'RE LANDING ON THE ROOF OF THE CELL BLOCK!! AIM THERE!
!!
OW!!

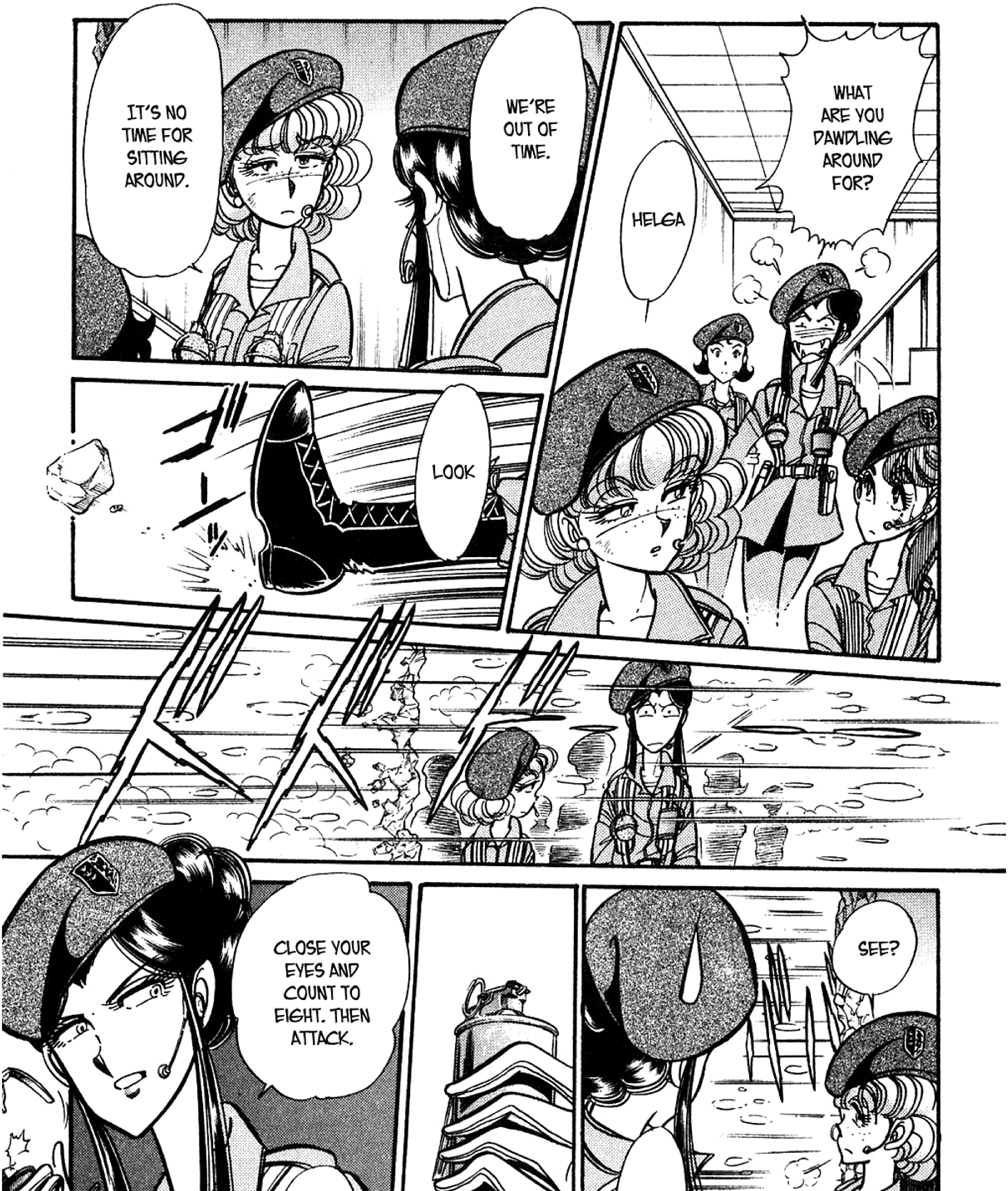

FIRE!! FIRE!!
KNOCK OUT THE GUNS ON THE TOWERS FIRST!!
KYAH

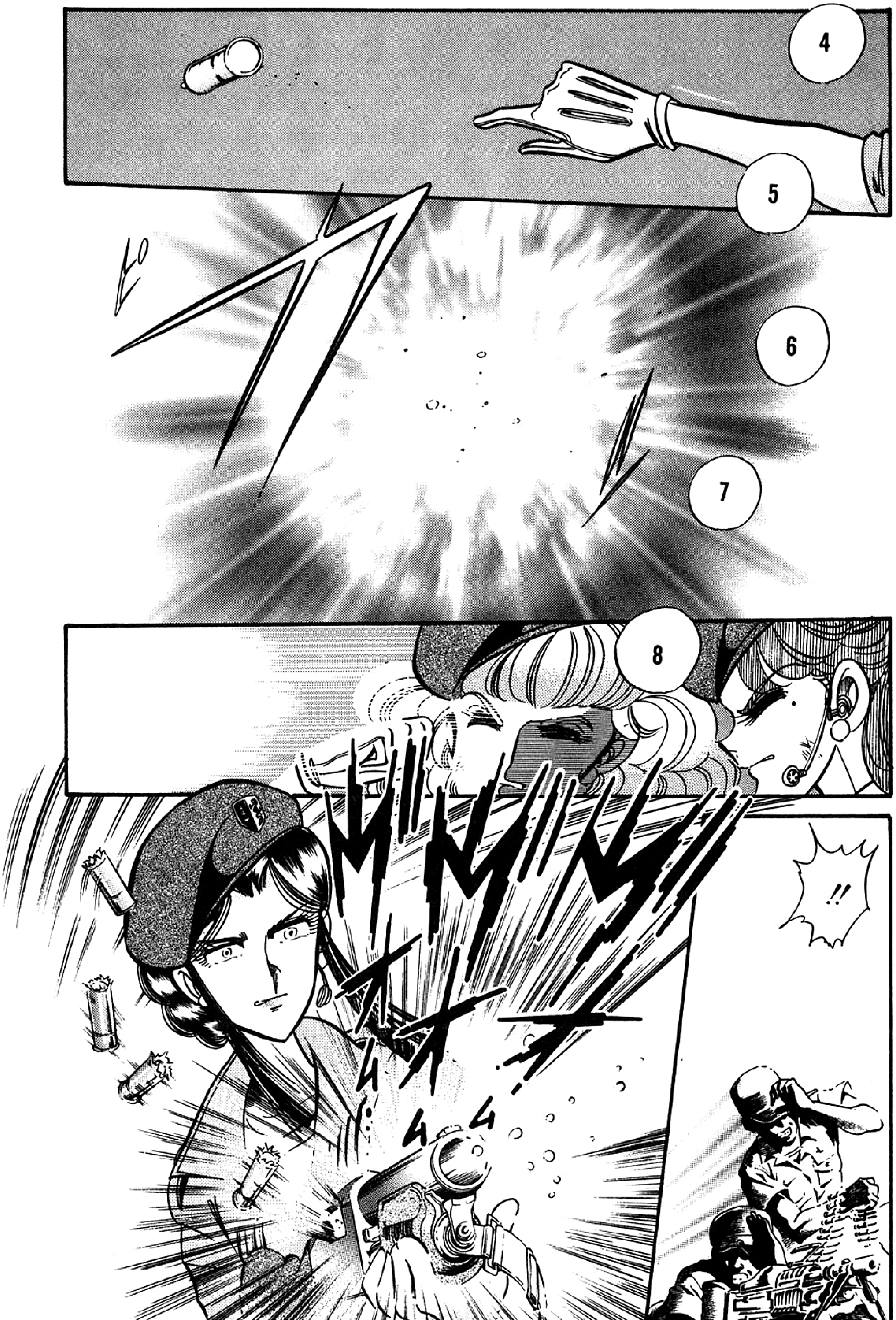

THE TOWERS ARE DESTROYED!!
ATTACK SQUAD!! INSIDE!!
MEDICAL SQUAD!! TAKE THE WOUNDED TO ELEVATOR ENGINE ROOM!
ON THE DOUBLE!!

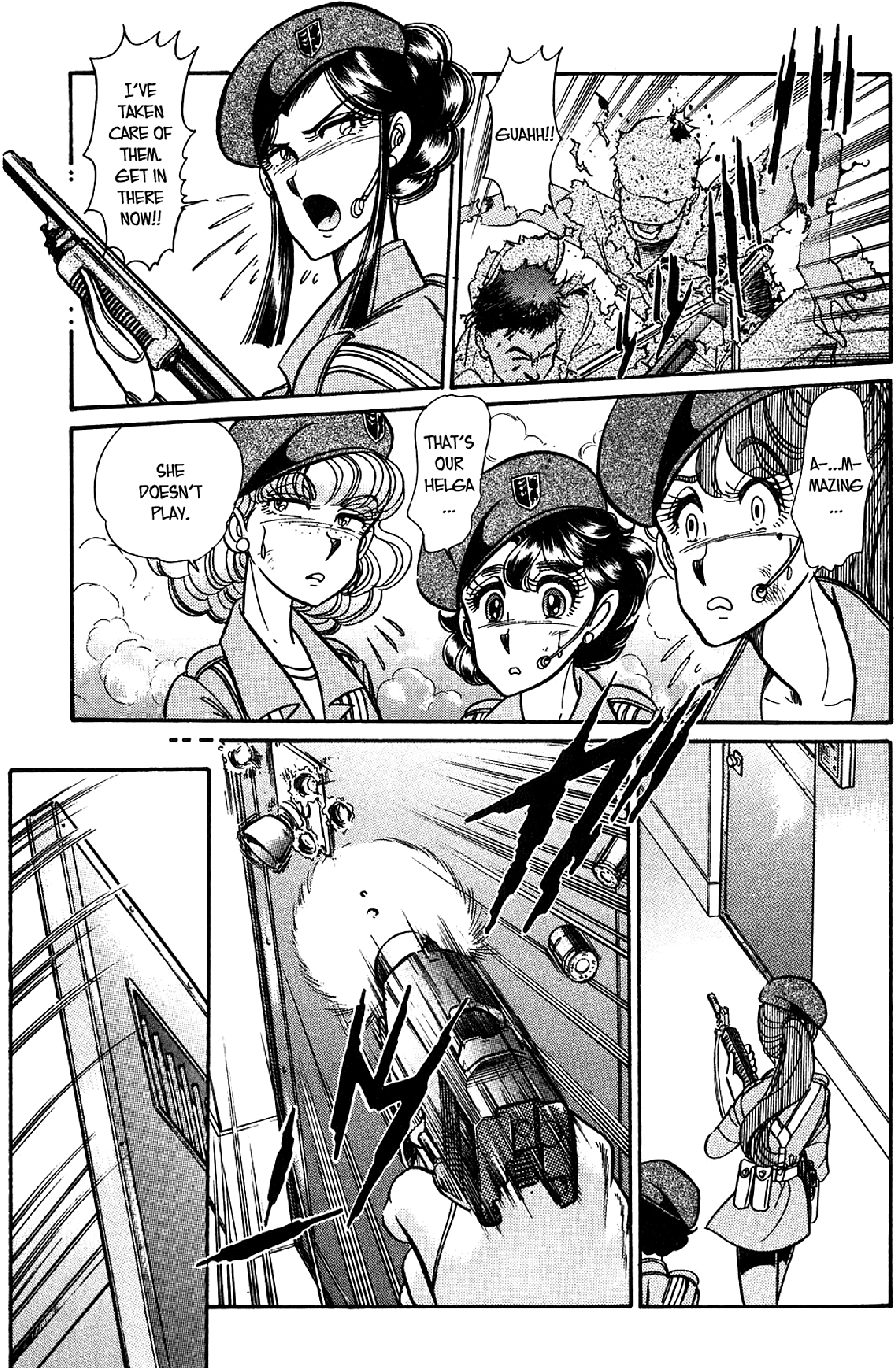

TO-RYAH!!
!!
GYAH!!
CARE-FUL!
THANKS, KIM!!

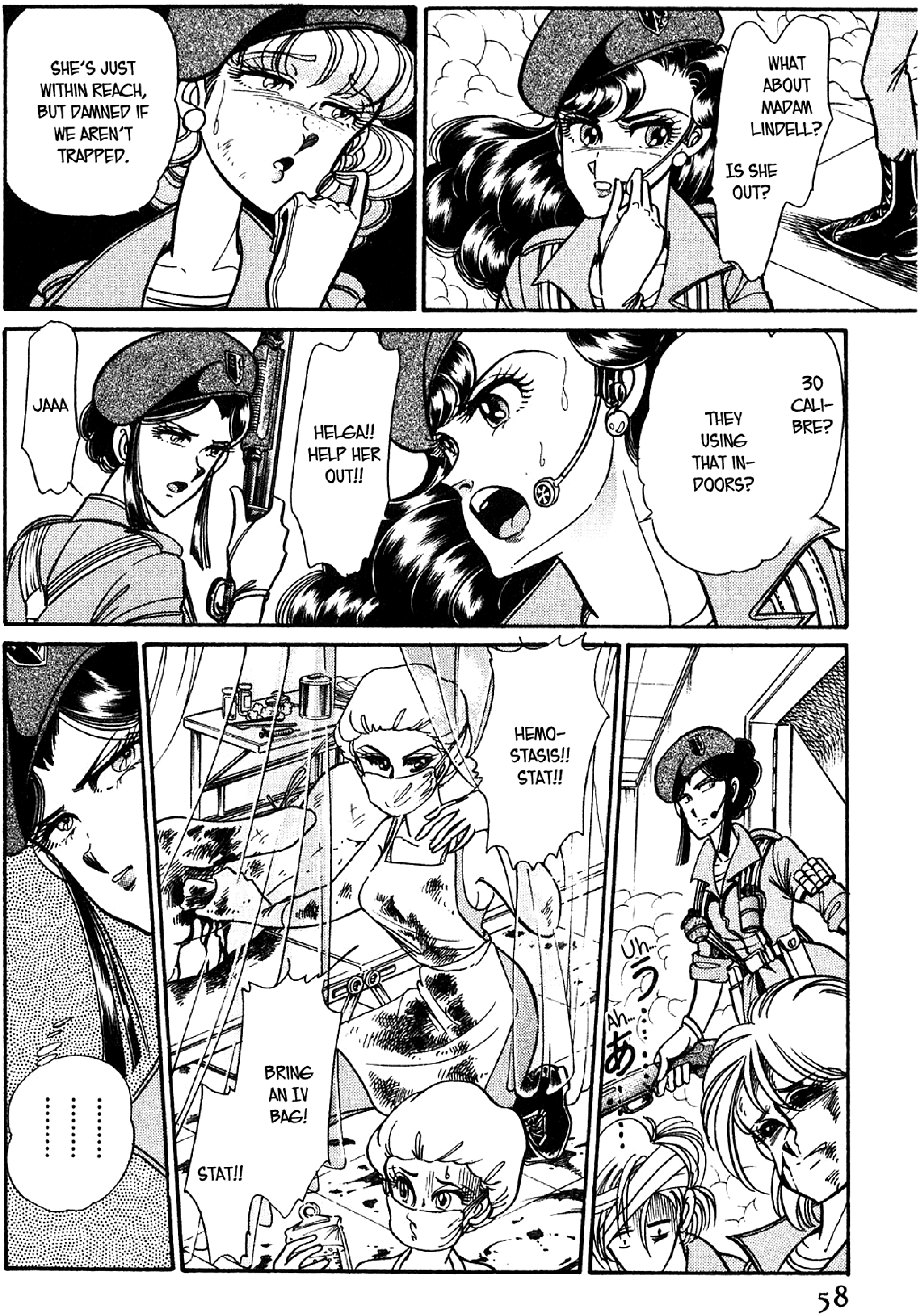

2-A
2-A
THIS WAY!!

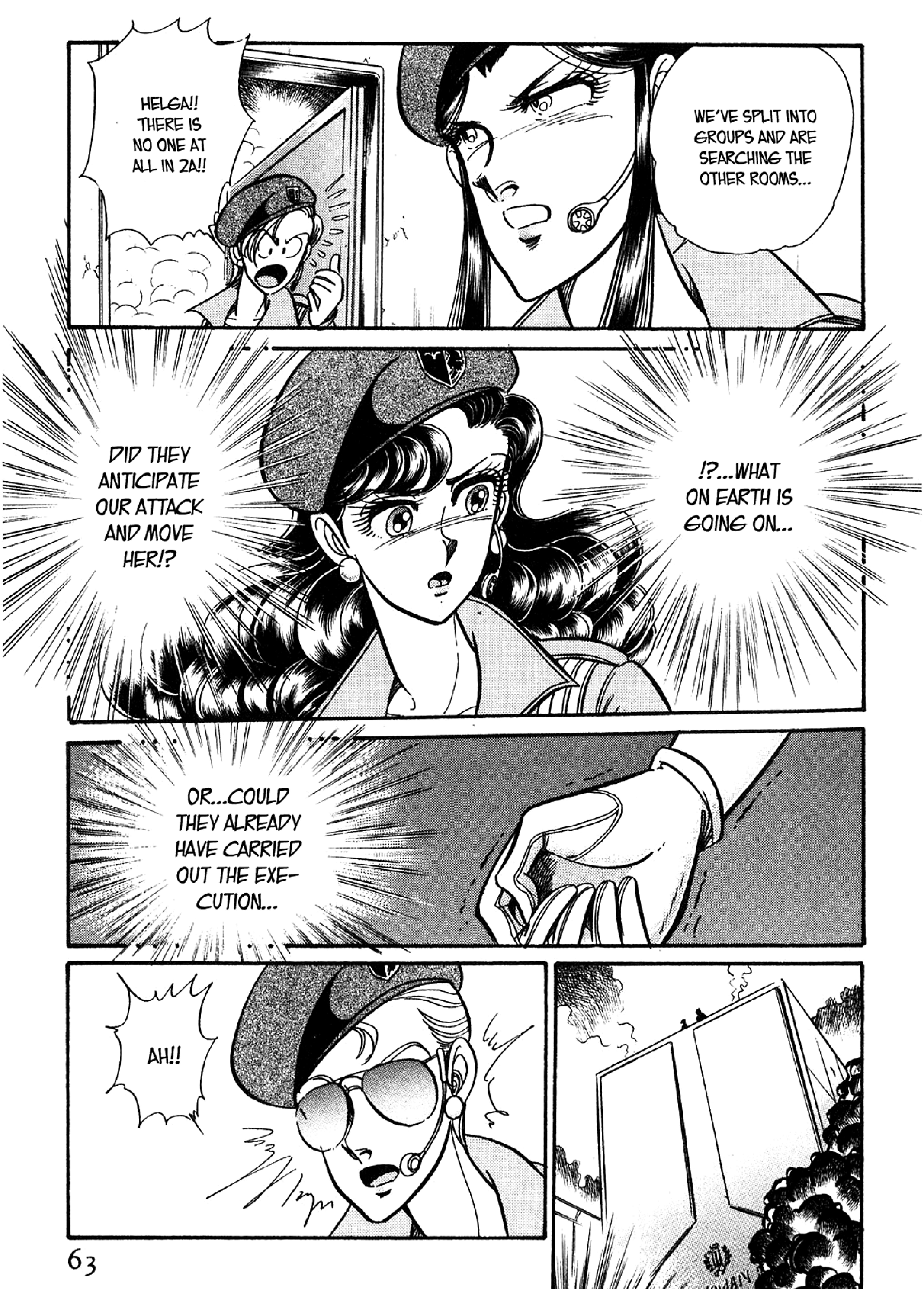

HURRY !!
!!
HYEE!!
IRENE !!
SHEESH!! THEY'RE USING 30 CALIBRE INDOORS TOO.
WILL YOU USE PINEAPPLES?
THAT WOULD BLOW UP MADAM LINDELL ALONG WITH THEM.
BRAVO CALLING KING II.
KING II HERE. IRENE SPEAKING.

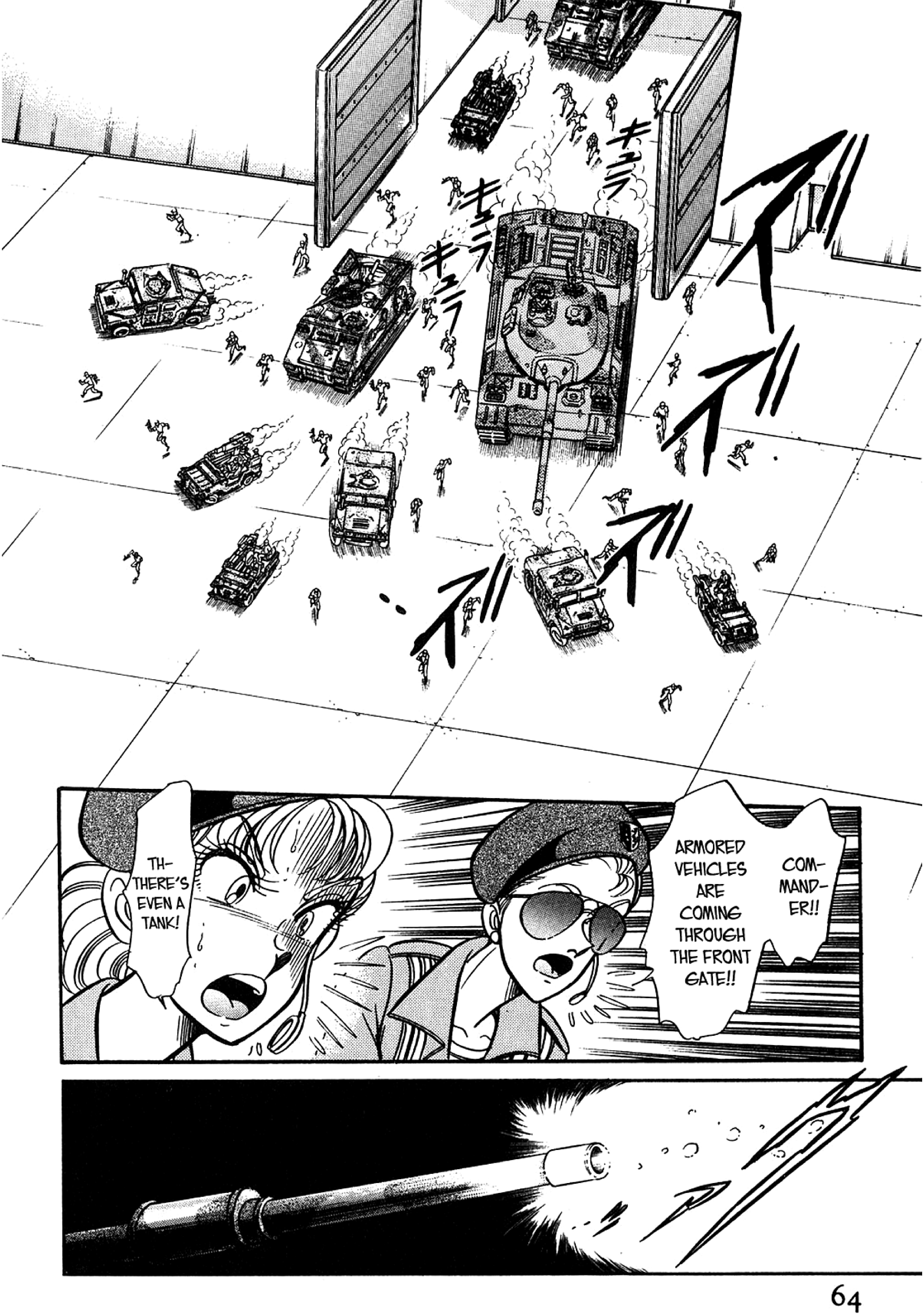

WHAT ARE YOU DAWDLING AROUND FOR?
HELGA
WE'RE OUT OF TIME.
IT'S NO TIME FOR SITTING AROUND.
LOOK
SEE?
....DAMN ...
CLOSE YOUR EYES AND COUNT TO EIGHT. THEN ATTACK.
1
2
3

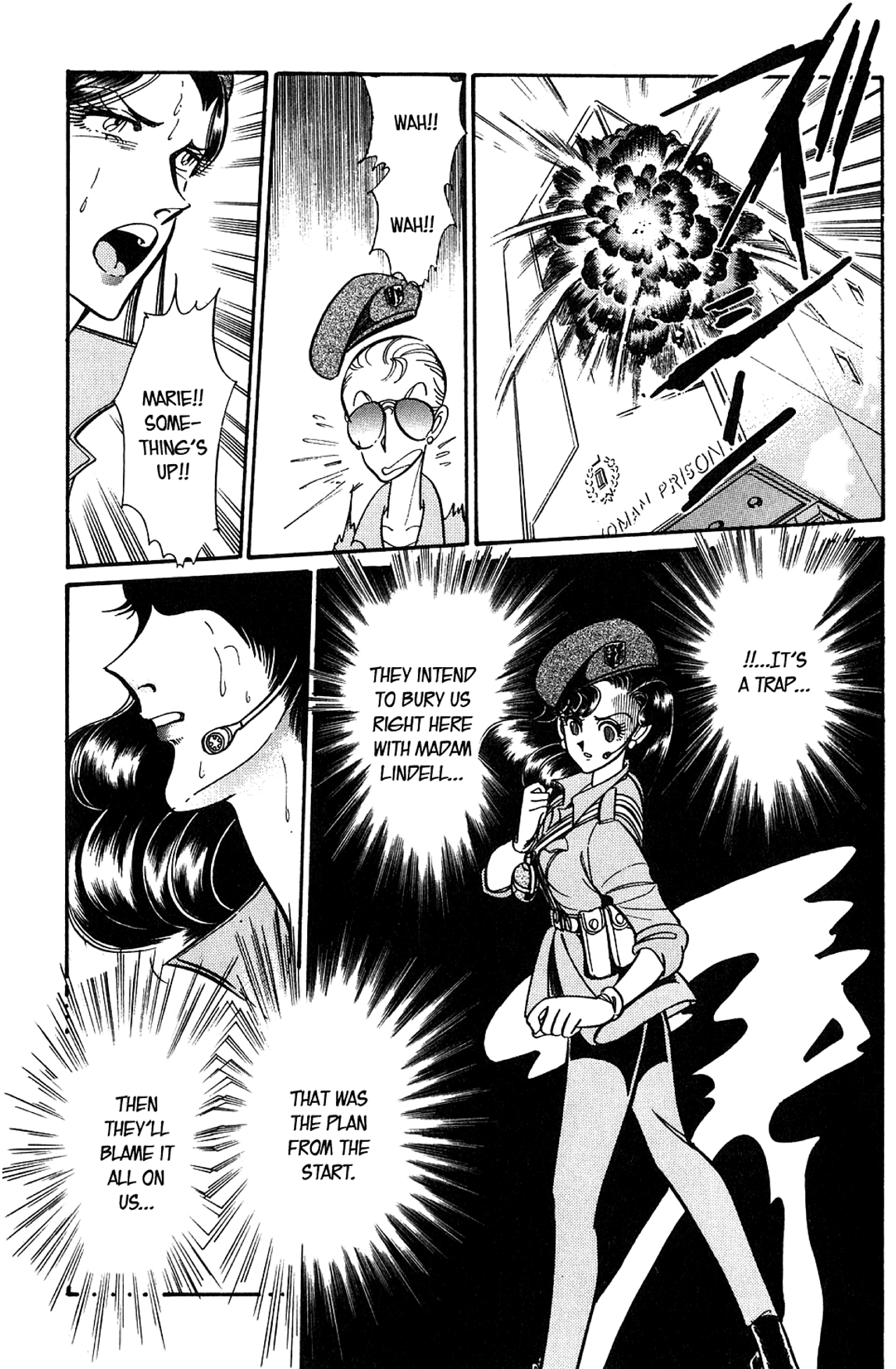

4
5
6
7
8
!!

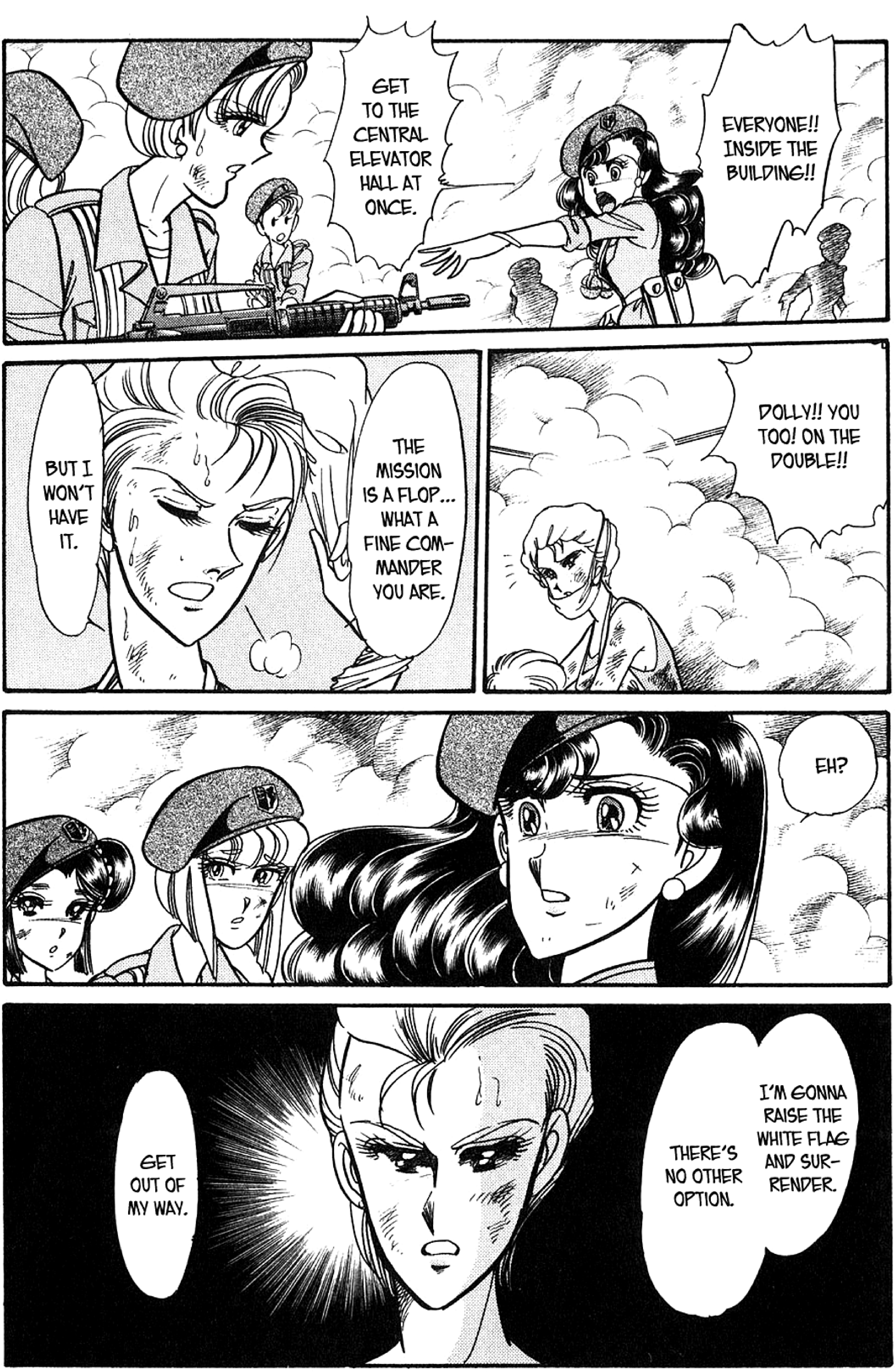

GUAHH!!
I'VE TAKEN CARE OF THEM. GET IN THERE NOW!!
A-...M-MAZING...
THAT'S OUR HELGA...
SHE DOESN'T PLAY.


WHAT ABOUT MADAM LINDELL?
IS SHE OUT?
SHE'S JUST WITHIN REACH, BUT DAMNED IF WE AREN'T TRAPPED.
30 CALIBRE?
THEY USING THAT INDOORS?
HELGA!! HELP HER OUT!!
JAAA
Uh… う
Ah… あ…
HEMOSTASIS!! STAT!!
BRING AN IV BAG!
STAT!!
……!!!


WE'VE SPLIT INTO GROUPS AND ARE SEARCHING THE OTHER ROOMS...
HELGA!! THERE IS NO ONE AT ALL IN 2A!!
!?...WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON...
DID THEY ANTICIPATE OUR ATTACK AND MOVE HER!?
OR...COULD THEY ALREADY HAVE CARRIED OUT THE EXECUTION...
AH!!


キュラ
キュラ
キュラ
COMMANDER!!
ARMORED VEHICLES ARE COMING THROUGH THE FRONT GATE!!
TH-THERE'S EVEN A TANK!

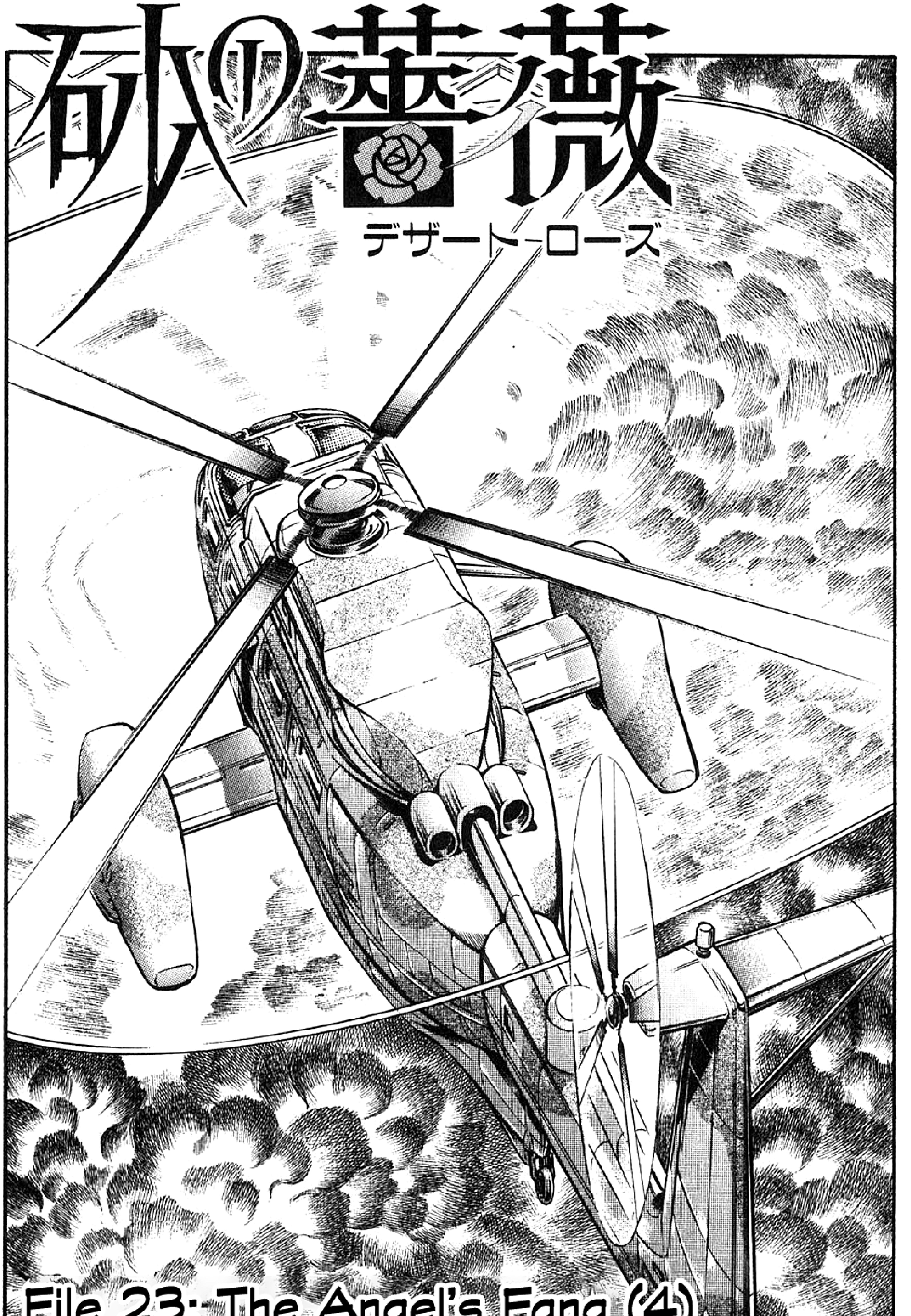

OMAN PRISON
WAH!!
WAH!!
MARIE!! SOMETHING'S UP!!
!!...IT'S A TRAP...
THEY INTEND TO BURY US RIGHT HERE WITH MADAM LINDELL...
THAT WAS THE PLAN FROM THE START.
THEN THEY'LL BLAME IT ALL ON US...


EVERYONE!! INSIDE THE BUILDING!!
GET TO THE CENTRAL ELEVATOR HALL AT ONCE.
DOLLY!! YOU TOO! ON THE DOUBLE!!
THE MISSION IS A FLOP... WHAT A FINE COMMANDER YOU ARE.
BUT I WON'T HAVE IT.
EH?
I'M GONNA RAISE THE WHITE FLAG AND SURRENDER.
THERE'S NO OTHER OPTION.
GET OUT OF MY WAY.

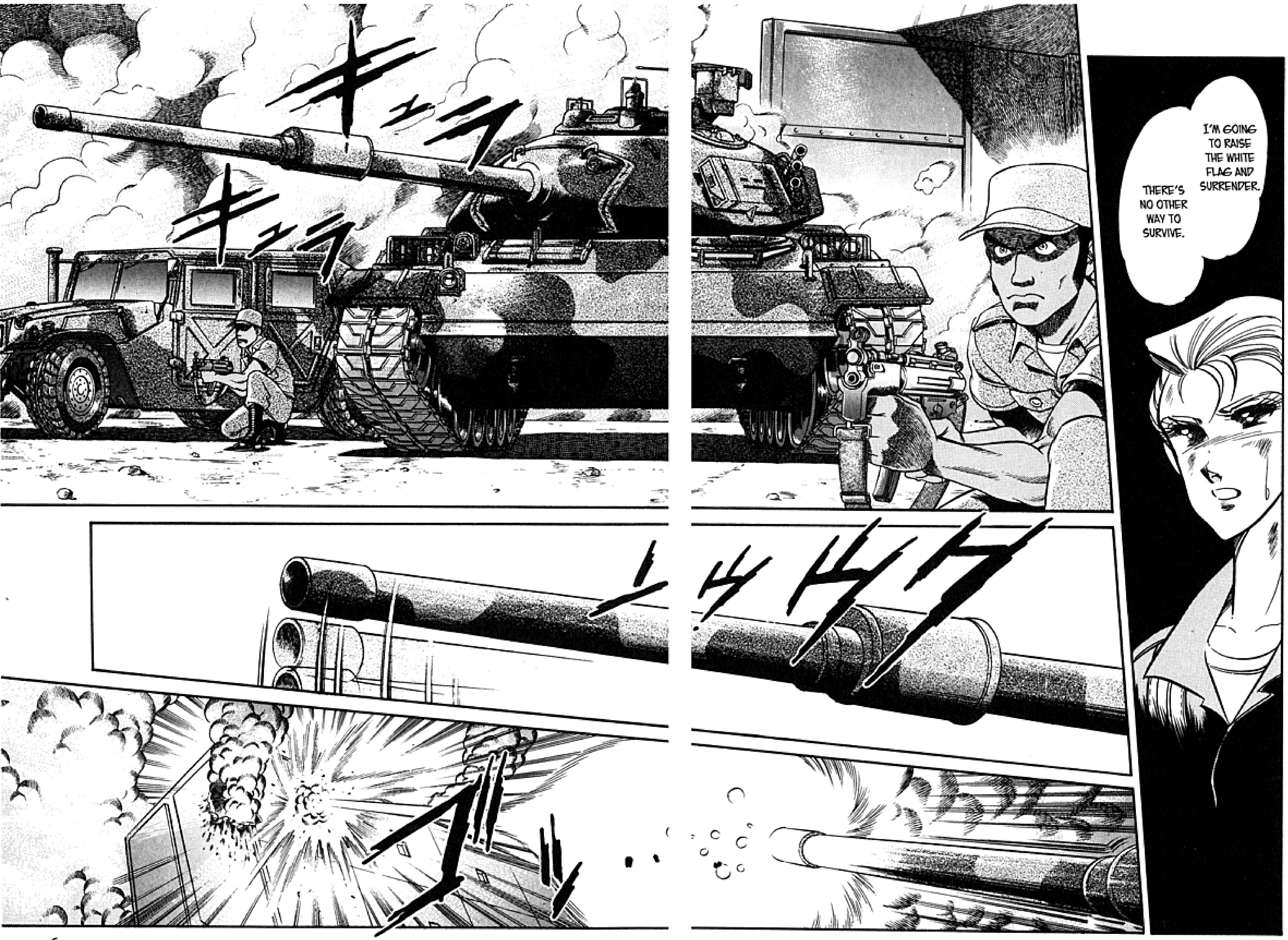
[File23:天使の持つ牙(3)　おわり]

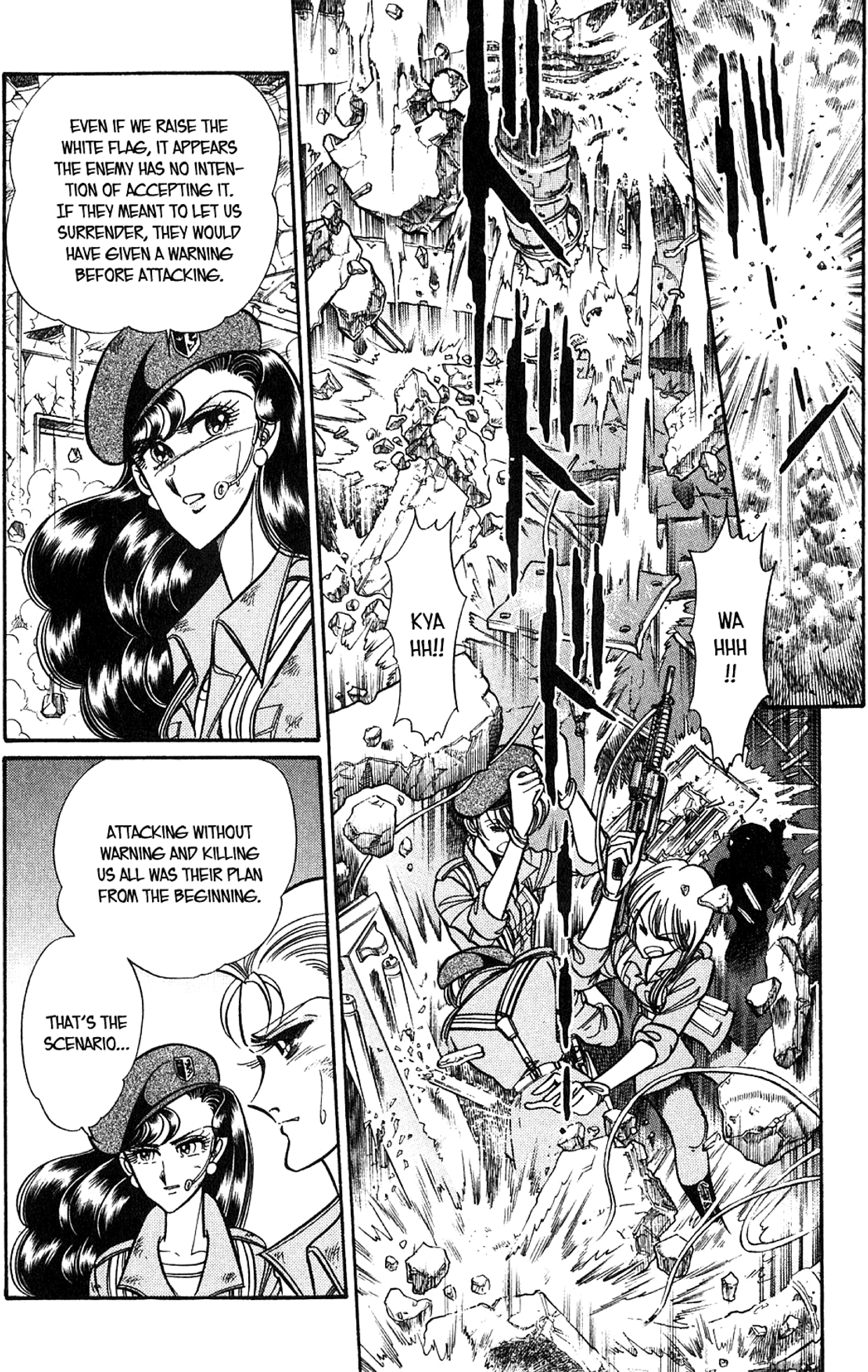
砂の薔薇

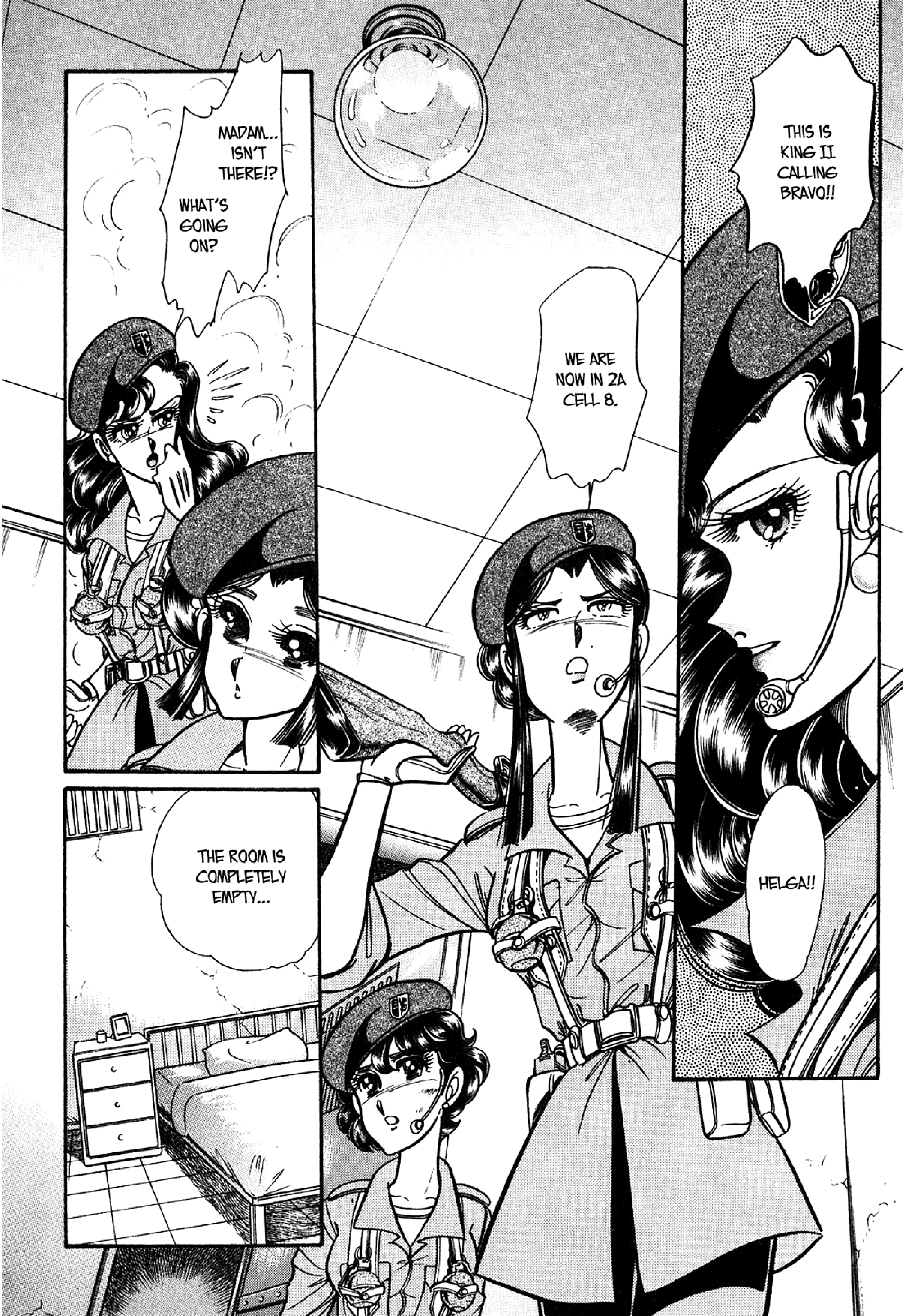
デザート-ローズ

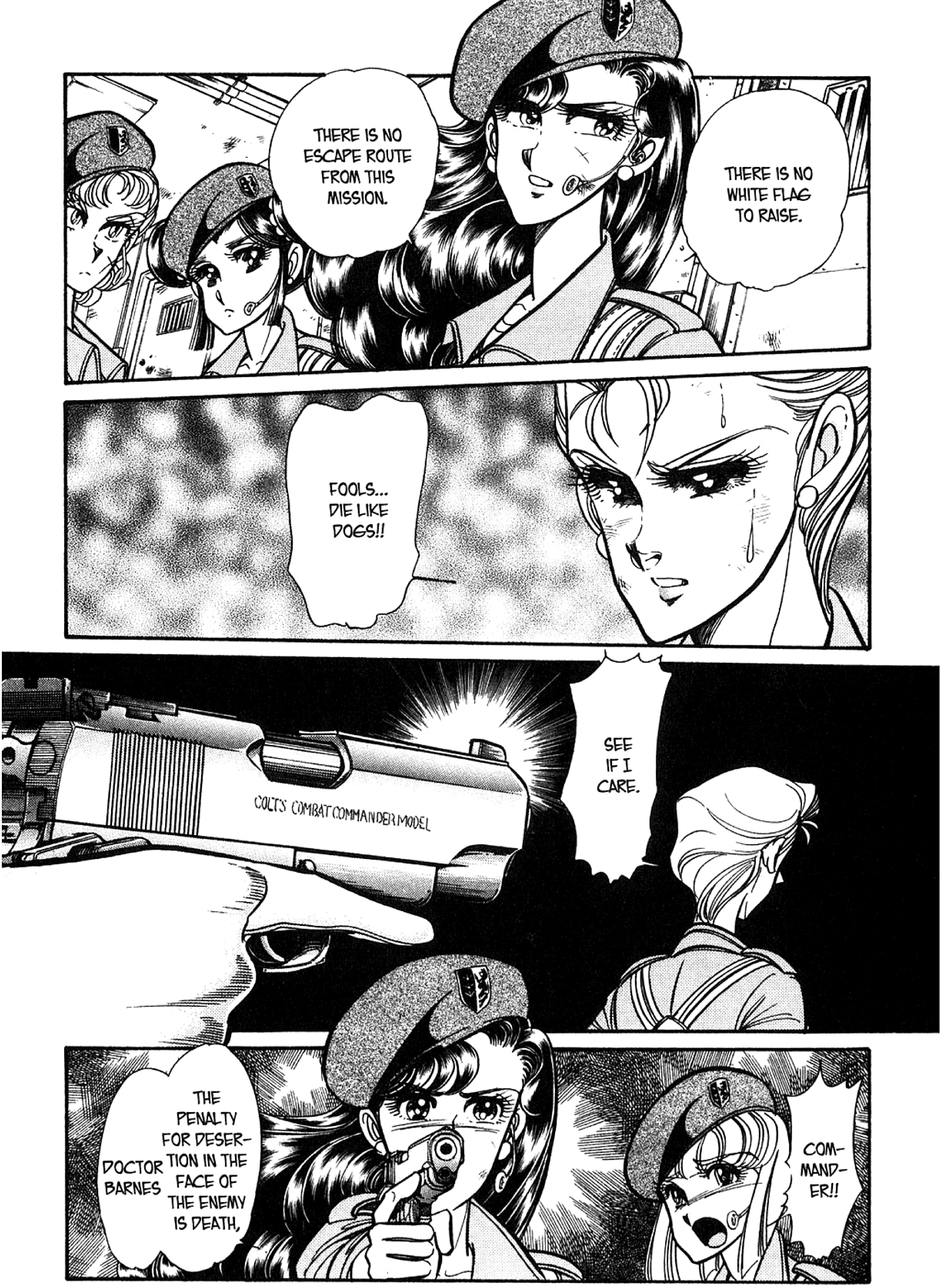


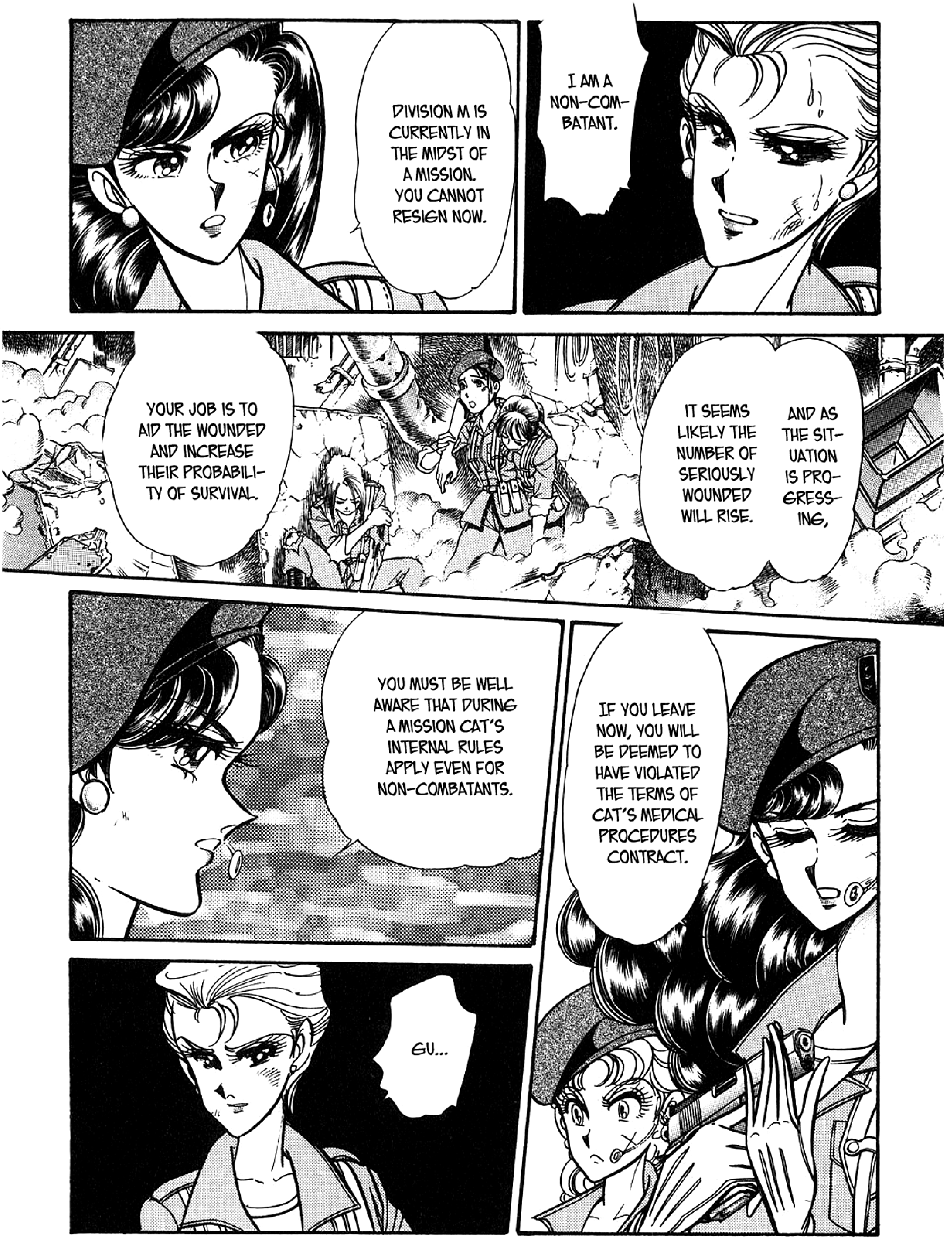
File 23: The Angel's Fang (4)

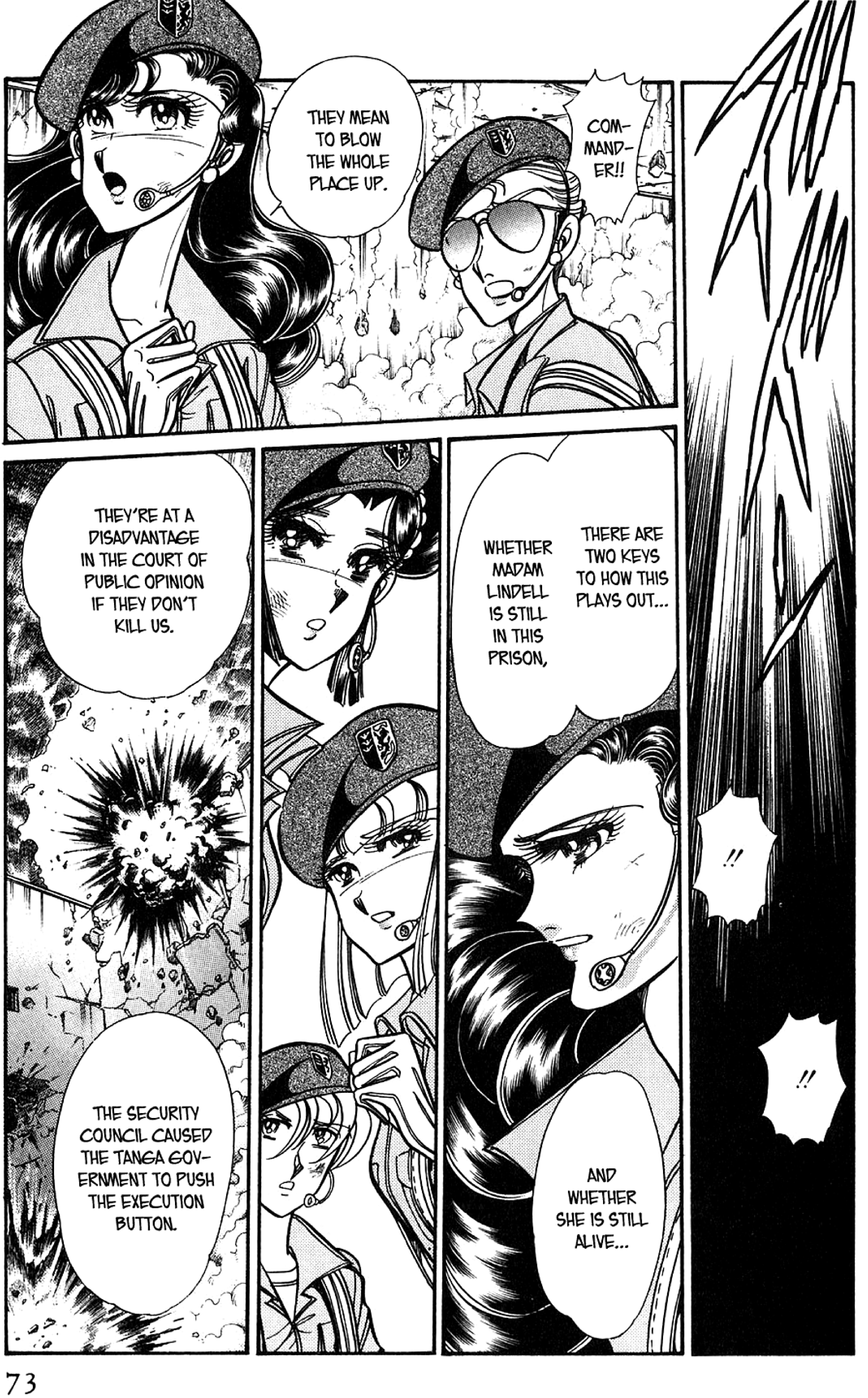

I'M GOING TO RAISE THE WHITE FLAG AND SURRENDER.
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO SURVIVE.
キュラ
キュラ

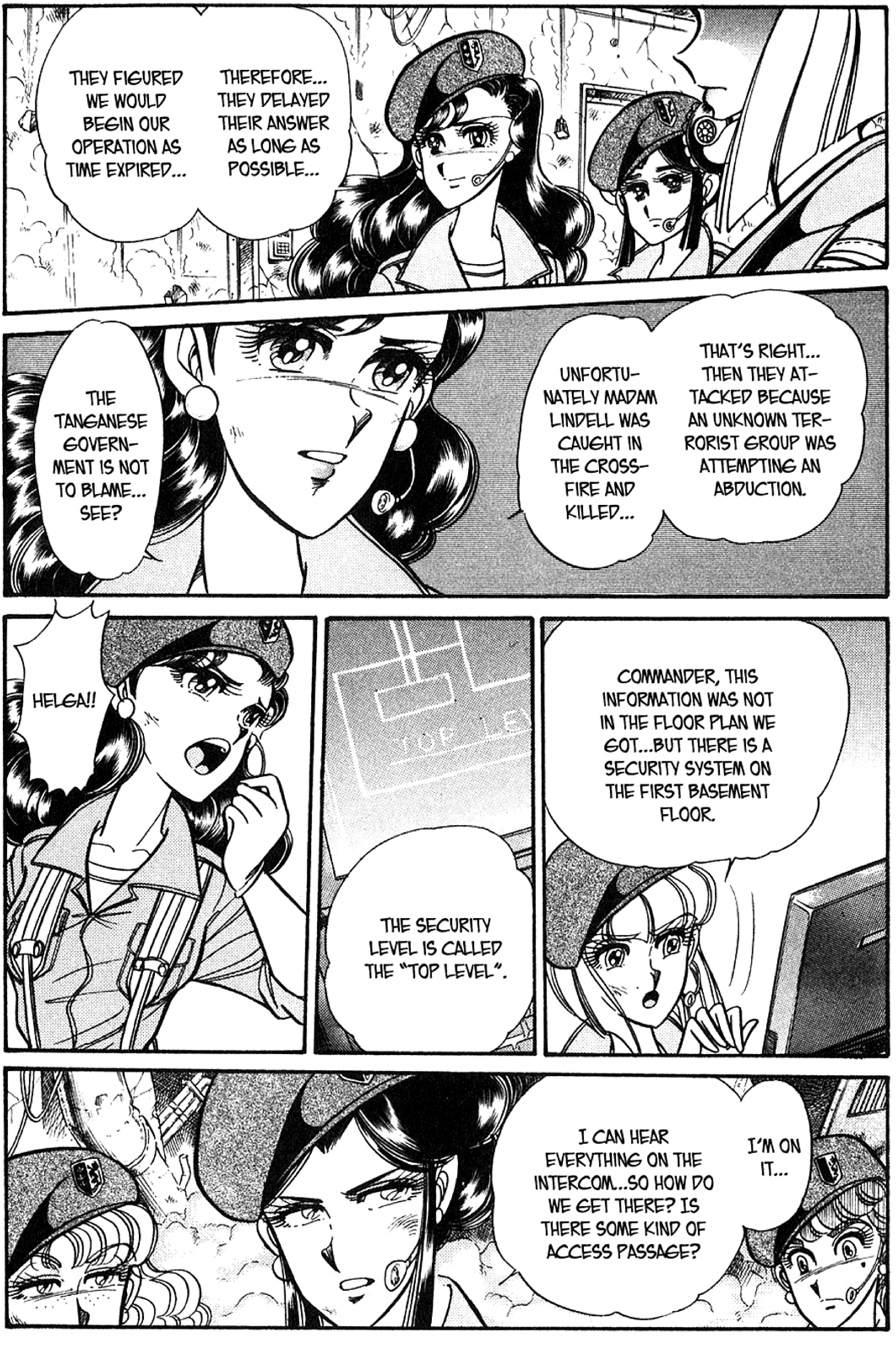

WAHHH!!
KYAHH!!
EVEN IF WE RAISE THE WHITE FLAG, IT APPEARS THE ENEMY HAS NO INTENTION OF ACCEPTING IT. IF THEY MEANT TO LET US SURRENDER, THEY WOULD HAVE GIVEN A WARNING BEFORE ATTACKING.
ATTACKING WITHOUT WARNING AND KILLING US ALL WAS THEIR PLAN FROM THE BEGINNING.
THAT'S THE SCENARIO...

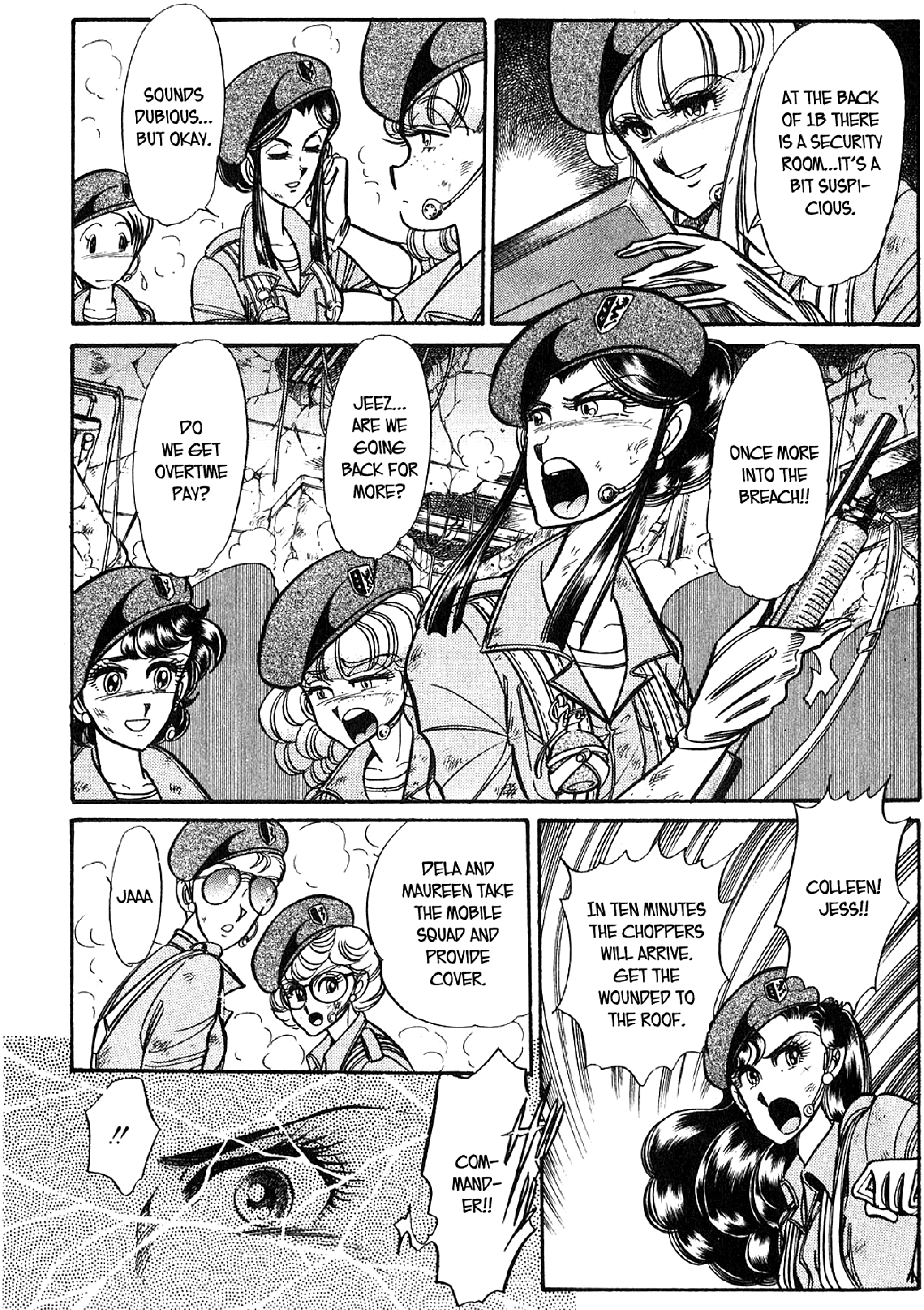

THIS IS KING II CALLING BRAVO!!
HELGA!!
WE ARE NOW IN 2A CELL 8.
MADAM... ISN'T THERE!?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE ROOM IS COMPLETELY EMPTY...

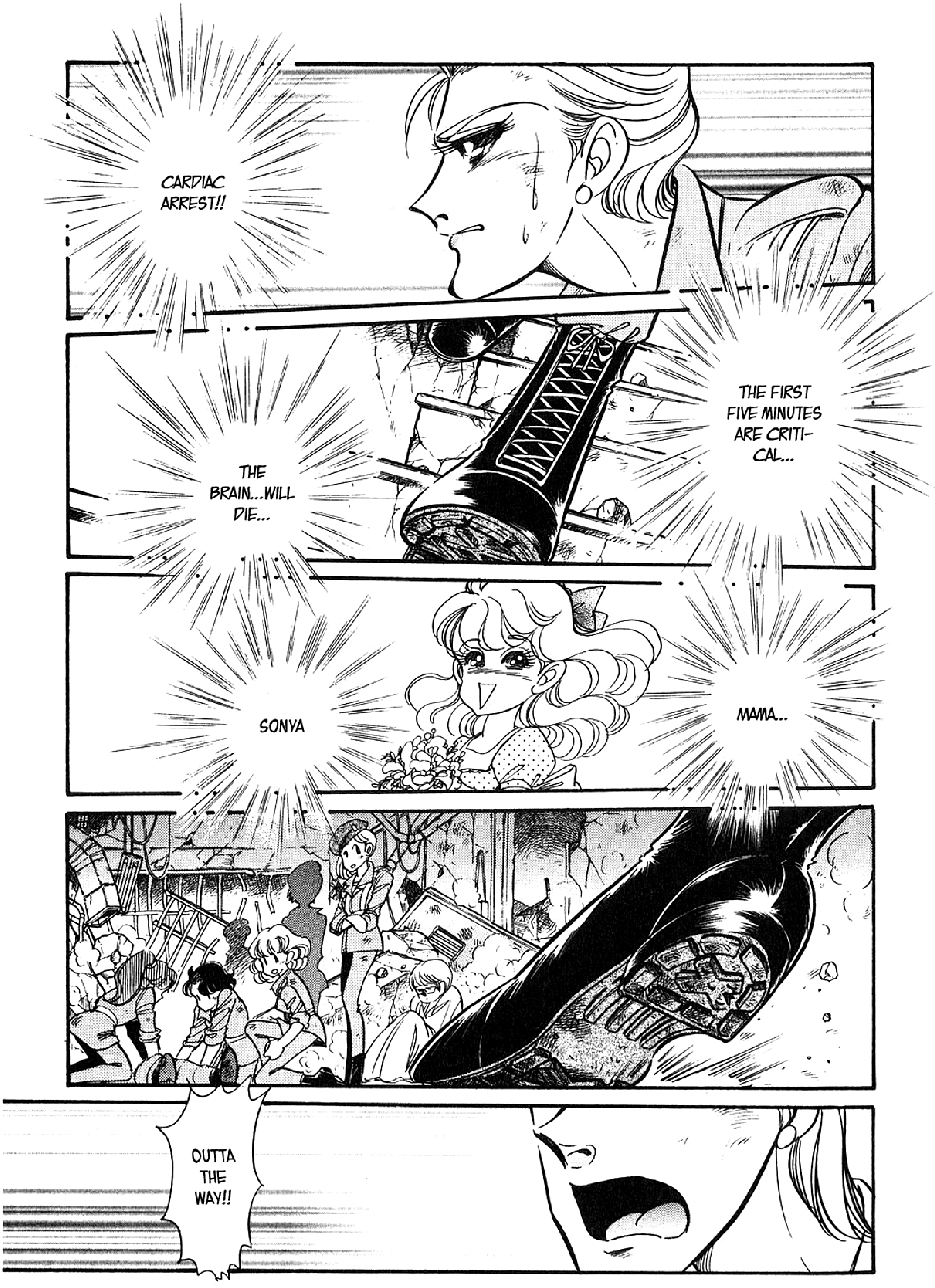

THERE IS NO WHITE FLAG TO RAISE.
THERE IS NO ESCAPE ROUTE FROM THIS MISSION.
FOOLS... DIE LIKE DOGS!!
SEE IF I CARE.
COLT'S COMBAT COMMANDER MODEL
COMMANDER!!
THE PENALTY FOR DESERTION IN THE FACE OF THE ENEMY IS DEATH,
DOCTOR BARNES

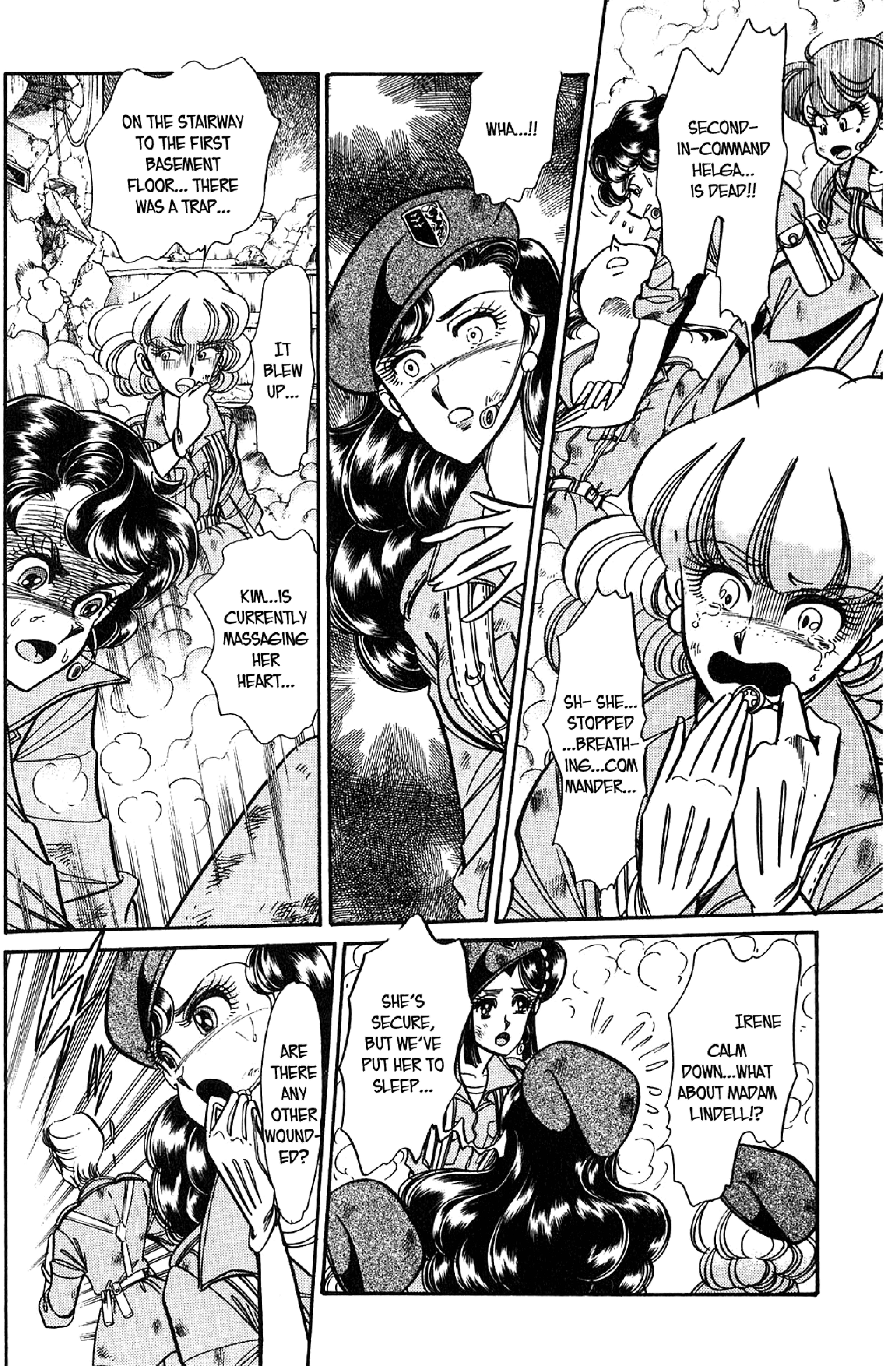

I AM A NON-COMBATANT.
DIVISION M IS CURRENTLY IN THE MIDST OF A MISSION. YOU CANNOT RESIGN NOW.
AND AS THE SITUATION IS PROGRESSING,
IT SEEMS LIKELY THE NUMBER OF SERIOUSLY WOUNDED WILL RISE.
YOUR JOB IS TO AID THE WOUNDED AND INCREASE THEIR PROBABILITY OF SURVIVAL.
IF YOU LEAVE NOW, YOU WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE VIOLATED THE TERMS OF CAT'S MEDICAL PROCEDURES CONTRACT.
YOU MUST BE WELL AWARE THAT DURING A MISSION CAT'S INTERNAL RULES APPLY EVEN FOR NON-COMBATANTS.
GU...

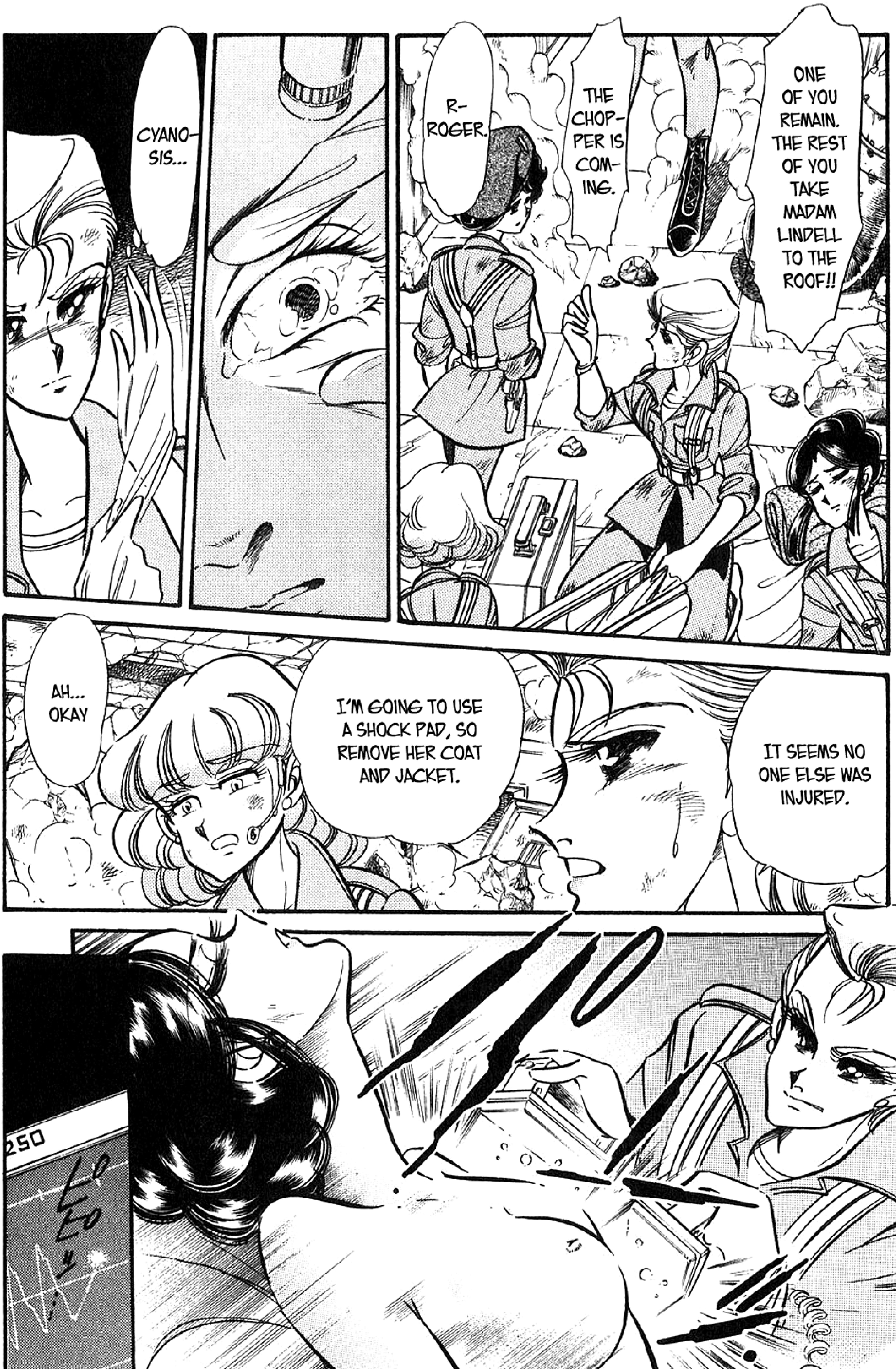

COMMANDER!!
THEY MEAN TO BLOW THE WHOLE PLACE UP.
THERE ARE TWO KEYS TO HOW THIS PLAYS OUT...
WHETHER MADAM LINDELL IS STILL IN THIS PRISON,
AND WHETHER SHE IS STILL ALIVE...
!!
!!
THEY'RE AT A DISADVANTAGE IN THE COURT OF PUBLIC OPINION IF THEY DON'T KILL US.
THE SECURITY COUNCIL CAUSED THE TANGA GOVERNMENT TO PUSH THE EXECUTION BUTTON.

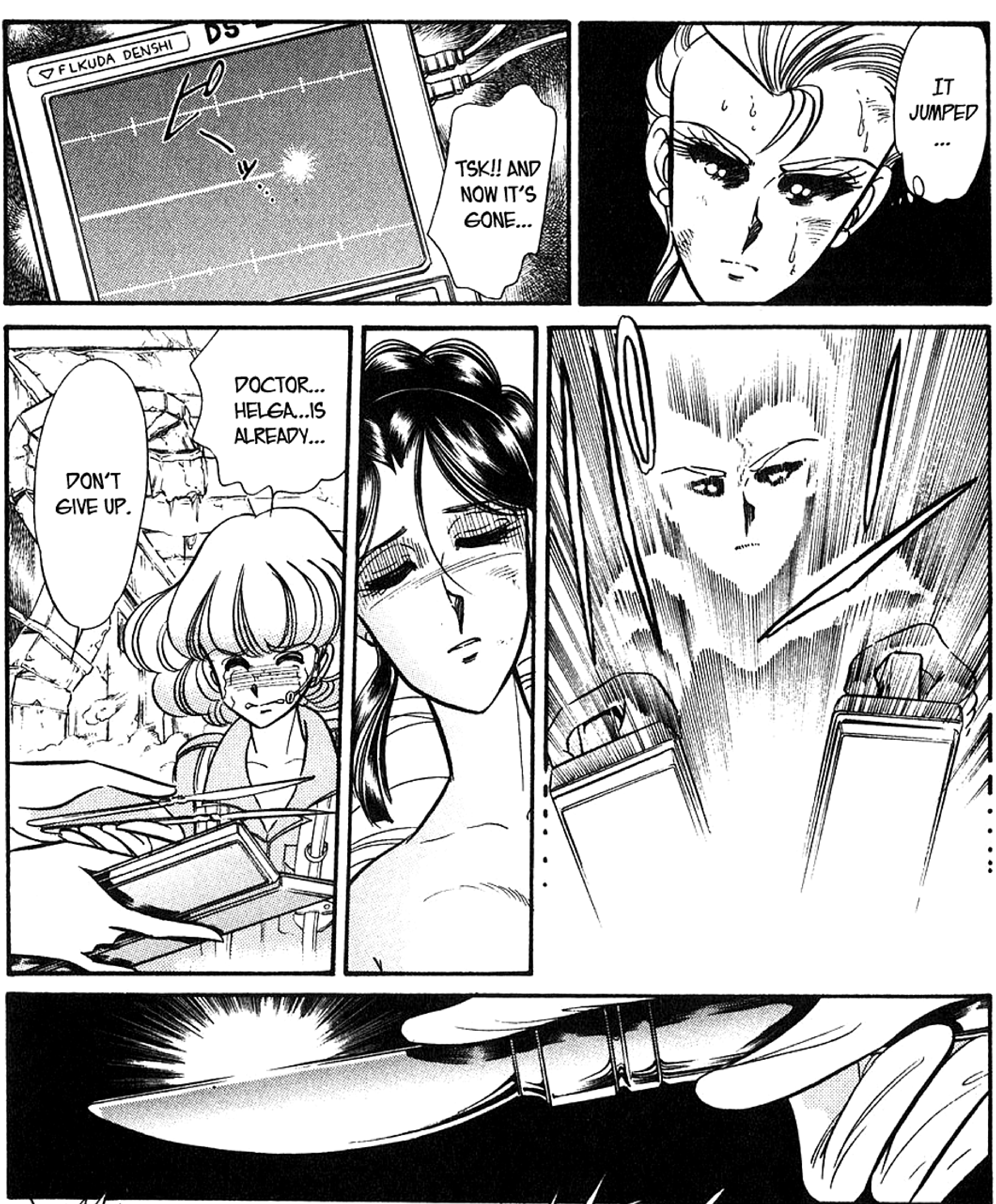

THEY FIGURED WE WOULD BEGIN OUR OPERATION AS TIME EXPIRED...
THEREFORE... THEY DELAYED THEIR ANSWER AS LONG AS POSSIBLE...
THAT'S RIGHT... THEN THEY ATTACKED BECAUSE AN UNKNOWN TERRORIST GROUP WAS ATTEMPTING AN ABDUCTION.
UNFORTUNATELY MADAM LINDELL WAS CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE AND KILLED...
THE TANGANESE GOVERNMENT IS NOT TO BLAME... SEE?
COMMANDER, THIS INFORMATION WAS NOT IN THE FLOOR PLAN WE GOT...BUT THERE IS A SECURITY SYSTEM ON THE FIRST BASEMENT FLOOR.
THE SECURITY LEVEL IS CALLED THE "TOP LEVEL".
TOP LEV
HELGA!!
I'M ON IT...
I CAN HEAR EVERYTHING ON THE INTERCOM...SO HOW DO WE GET THERE? IS THERE SOME KIND OF ACCESS PASSAGE?

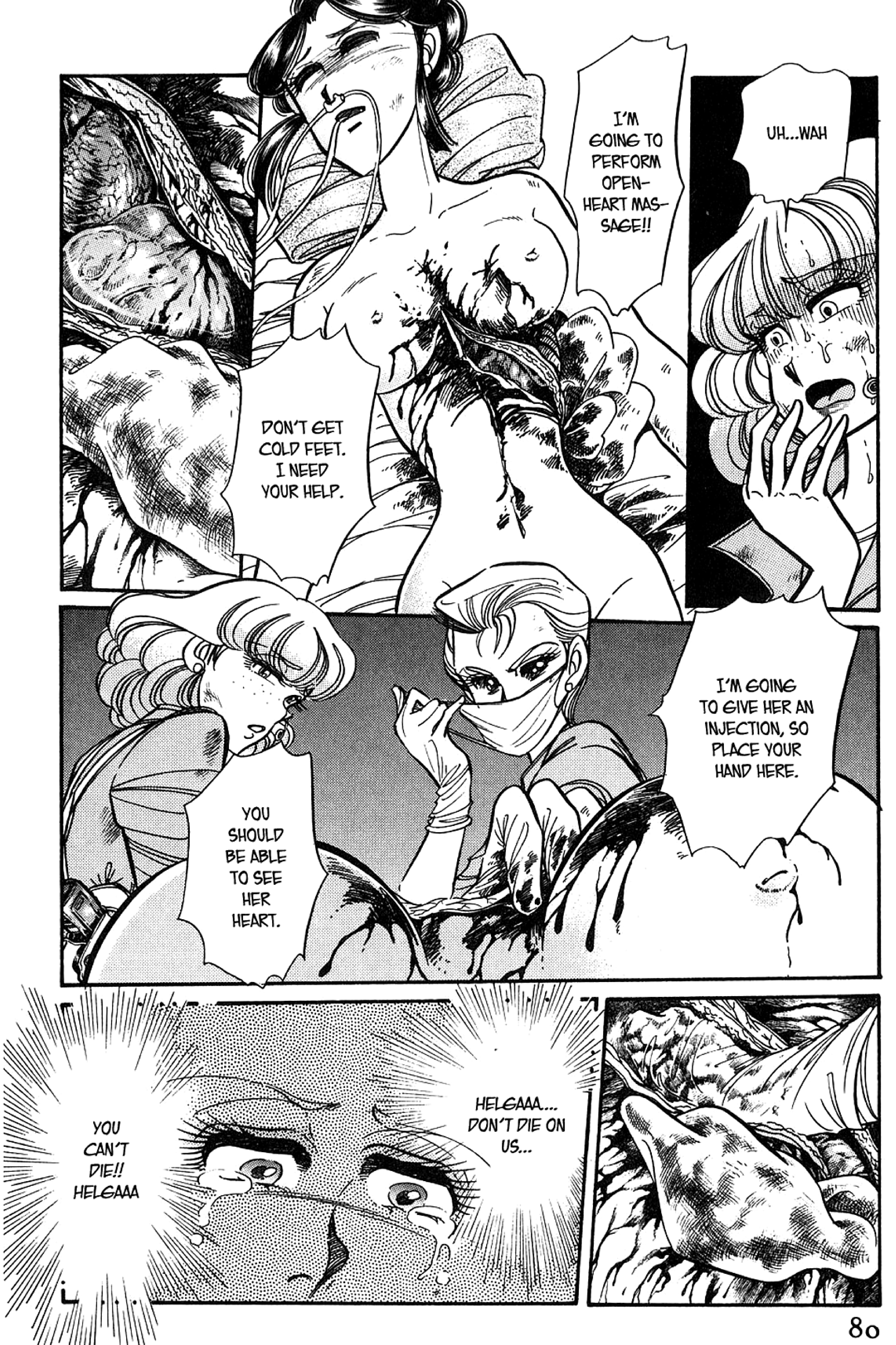

AT THE BACK OF 1B THERE IS A SECURITY ROOM...IT'S A BIT SUSPICIOUS.
SOUNDS DUBIOUS... BUT OKAY.
ONCE MORE INTO THE BREACH!!
JEEZ... ARE WE GOING BACK FOR MORE?
DO WE GET OVERTIME PAY?
COLLEEN! JESS!!
IN TEN MINUTES THE CHOPPERS WILL ARRIVE. GET THE WOUNDED TO THE ROOF.
DELA AND MAUREEN TAKE THE MOBILE SQUAD AND PROVIDE COVER.
JAAA
COMMANDER!!
!!

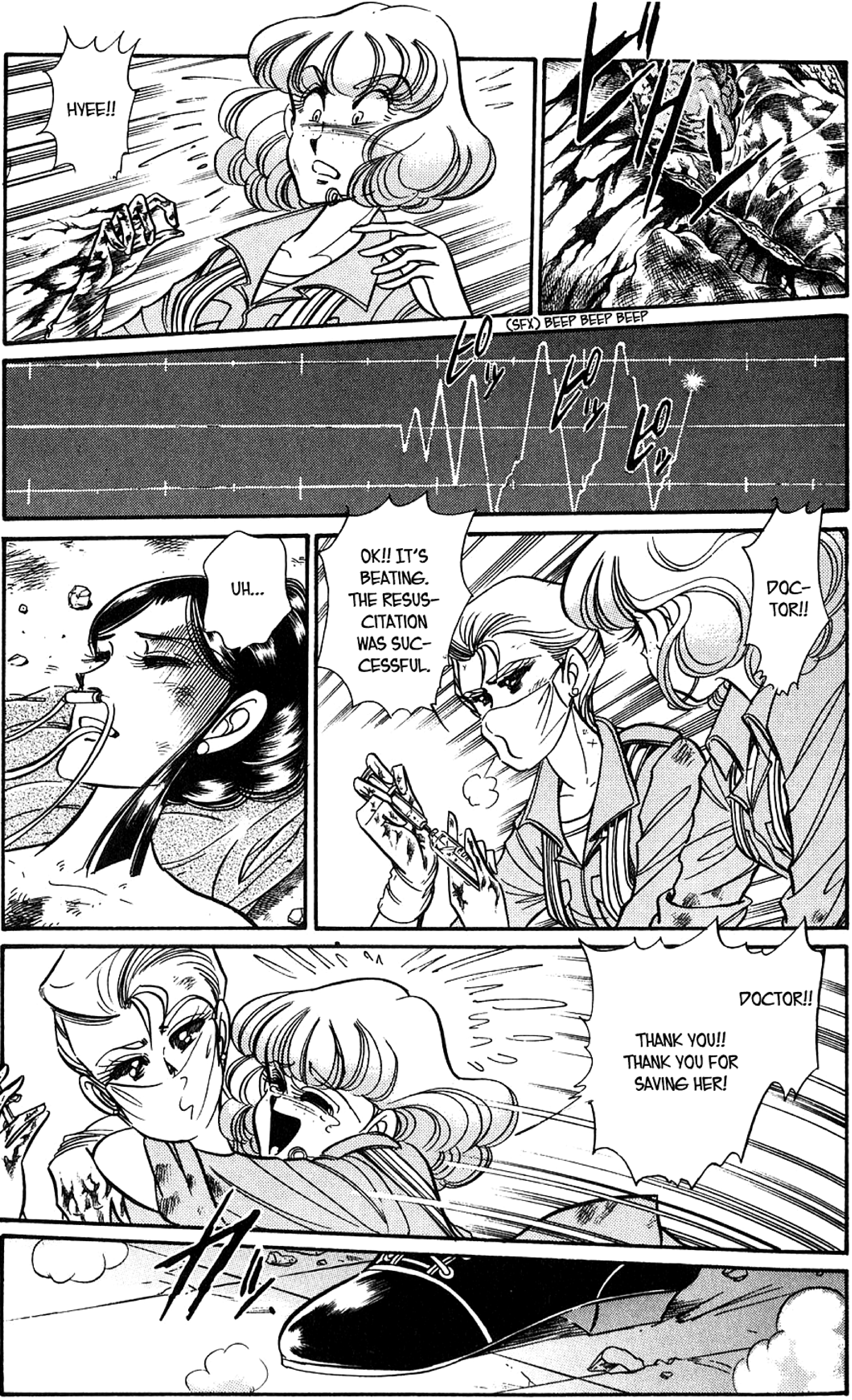

CARDIAC ARREST!!
THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES ARE CRITICAL...
THE BRAIN...WILL DIE...
MAMA...
SONYA
OUTTA THE WAY!!

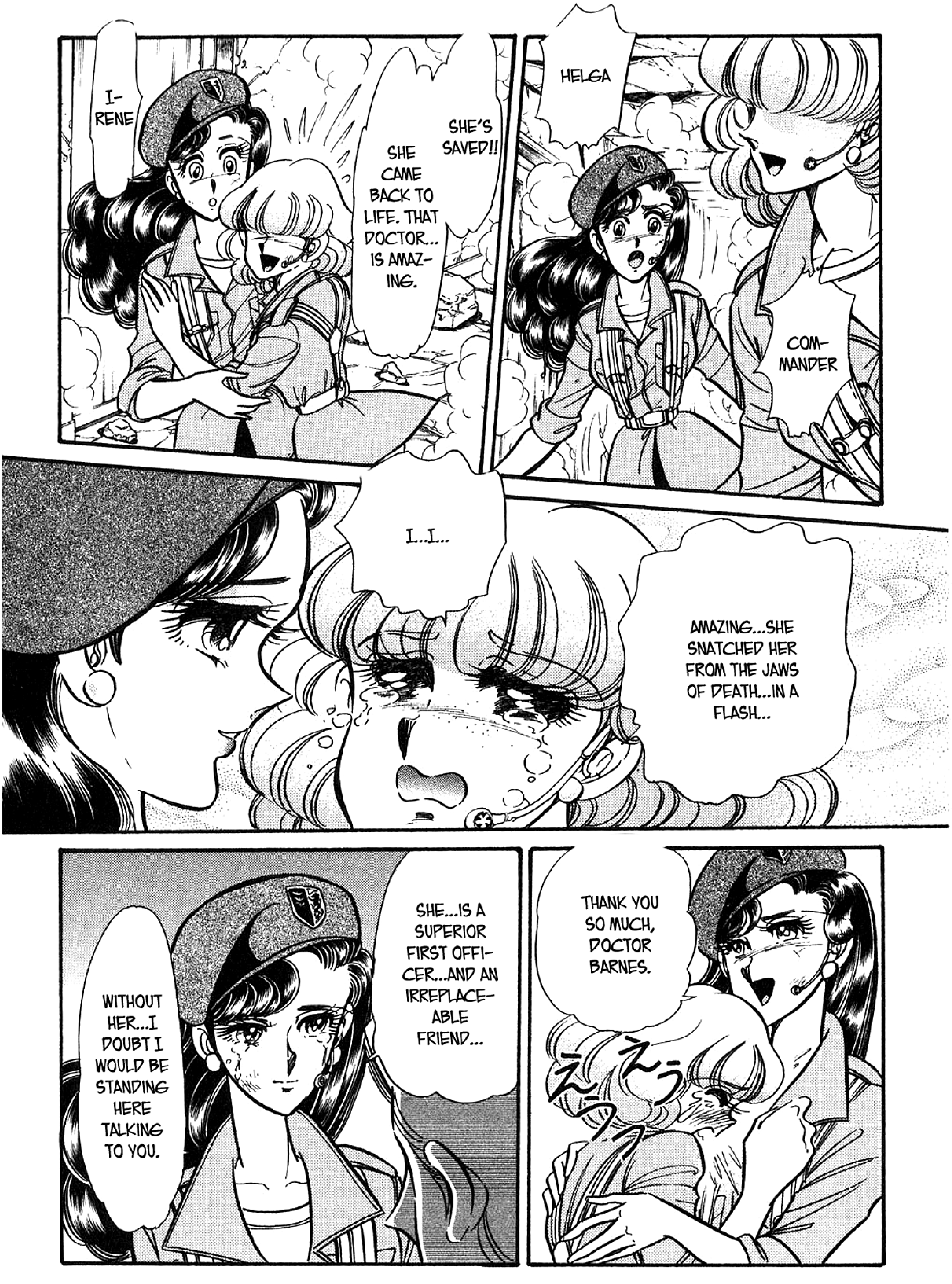

SECOND-IN-COMMAND HELGA... IS DEAD!!
SH- SHE... STOPPED ...BREATHING...COMMANDER...
WHA...!!
ON THE STAIRWAY TO THE FIRST BASEMENT FLOOR... THERE WAS A TRAP...
IT BLEW UP...
KIM...IS CURRENTLY MASSAGING HER HEART...
IRENE
CALM DOWN...WHAT ABOUT MADAM LINDELL!?
SHE'S SECURE, BUT WE'VE PUT HER TO SLEEP...
ARE THERE ANY OTHER WOUNDED?

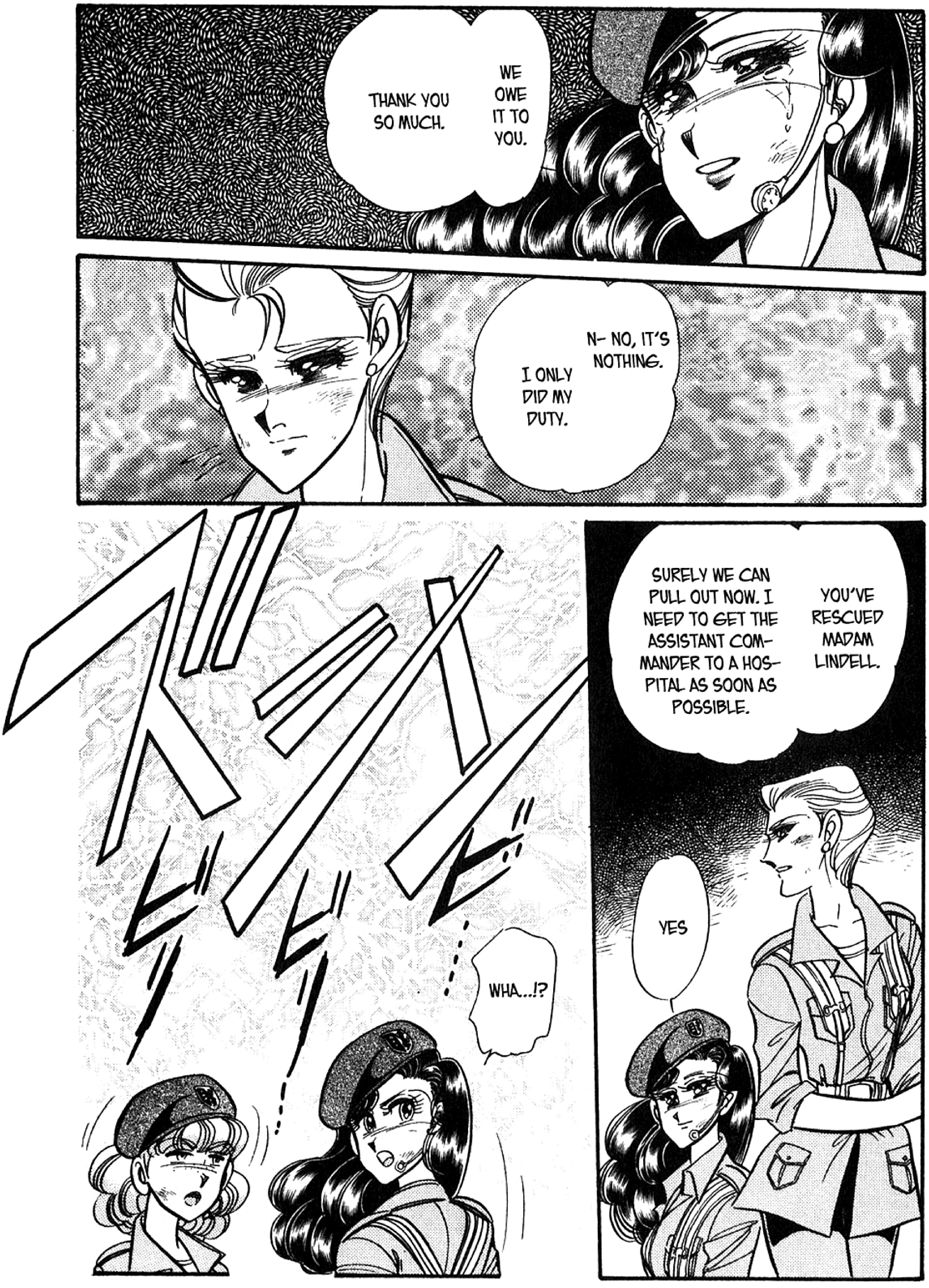

ONE OF YOU REMAIN. THE REST OF YOU TAKE MADAM LINDELL TO THE ROOF!!
THE CHOPPER IS COMING.
R-ROGER.
CYANOSIS...
IT SEEMS NO ONE ELSE WAS INJURED.
I'M GOING TO USE A SHOCK PAD, SO REMOVE HER COAT AND JACKET.
AH... OKAY
250

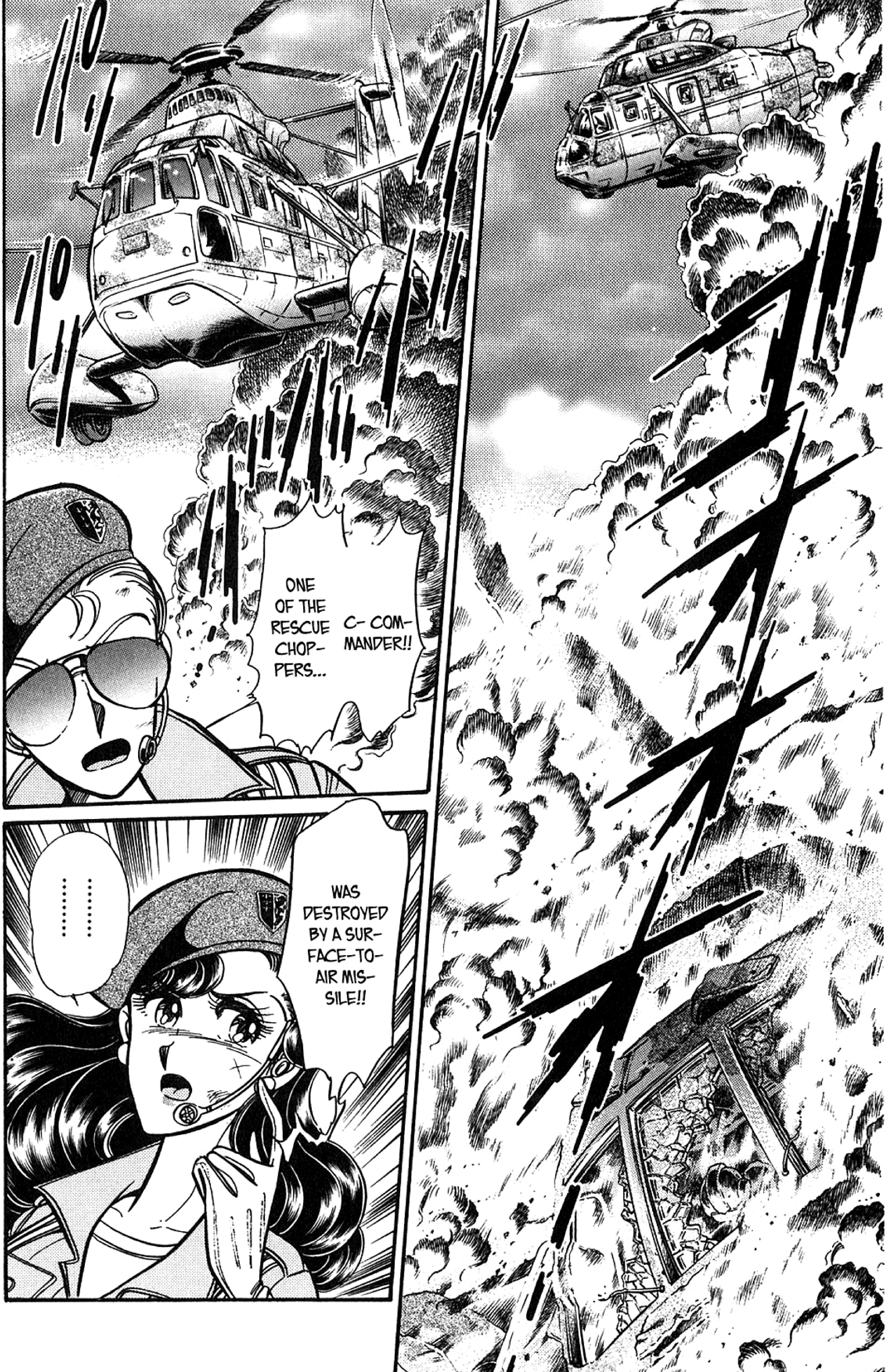
IT JUMPED ...
TSK!! AND NOW IT'S GONE...
F LKUDA DENSHI
D5
DOCTOR... HELGA...IS ALREADY...
DON'T GIVE UP.
!!

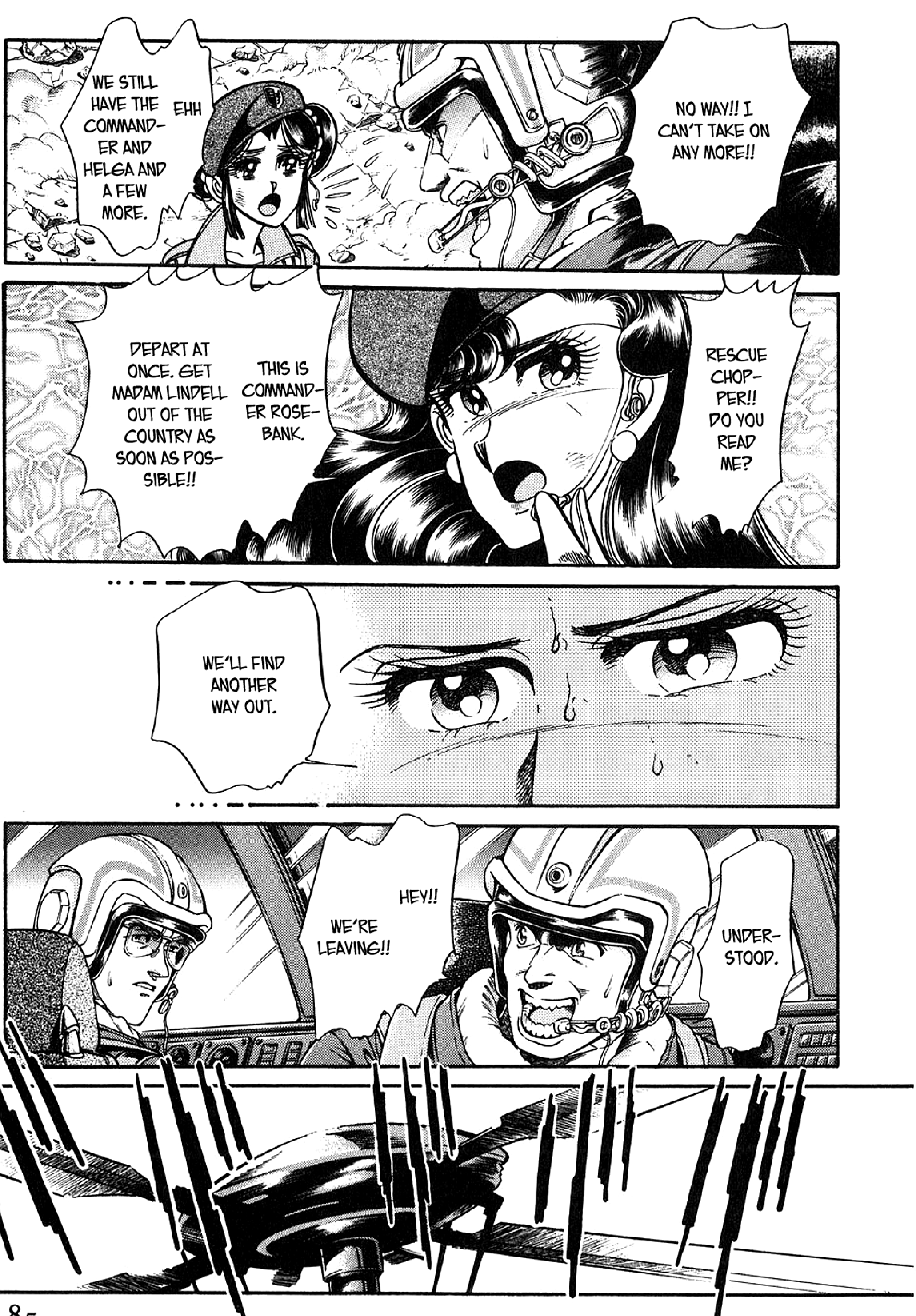

UH...WAH
I'M GOING TO PERFORM OPEN-HEART MASSAGE!!
DON'T GET COLD FEET. I NEED YOUR HELP.
I'M GOING TO GIVE HER AN INJECTION, SO PLACE YOUR HAND HERE.
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE HER HEART.
HELGAAA... DON'T DIE ON US...
YOU CAN'T DIE!! HELGAAA

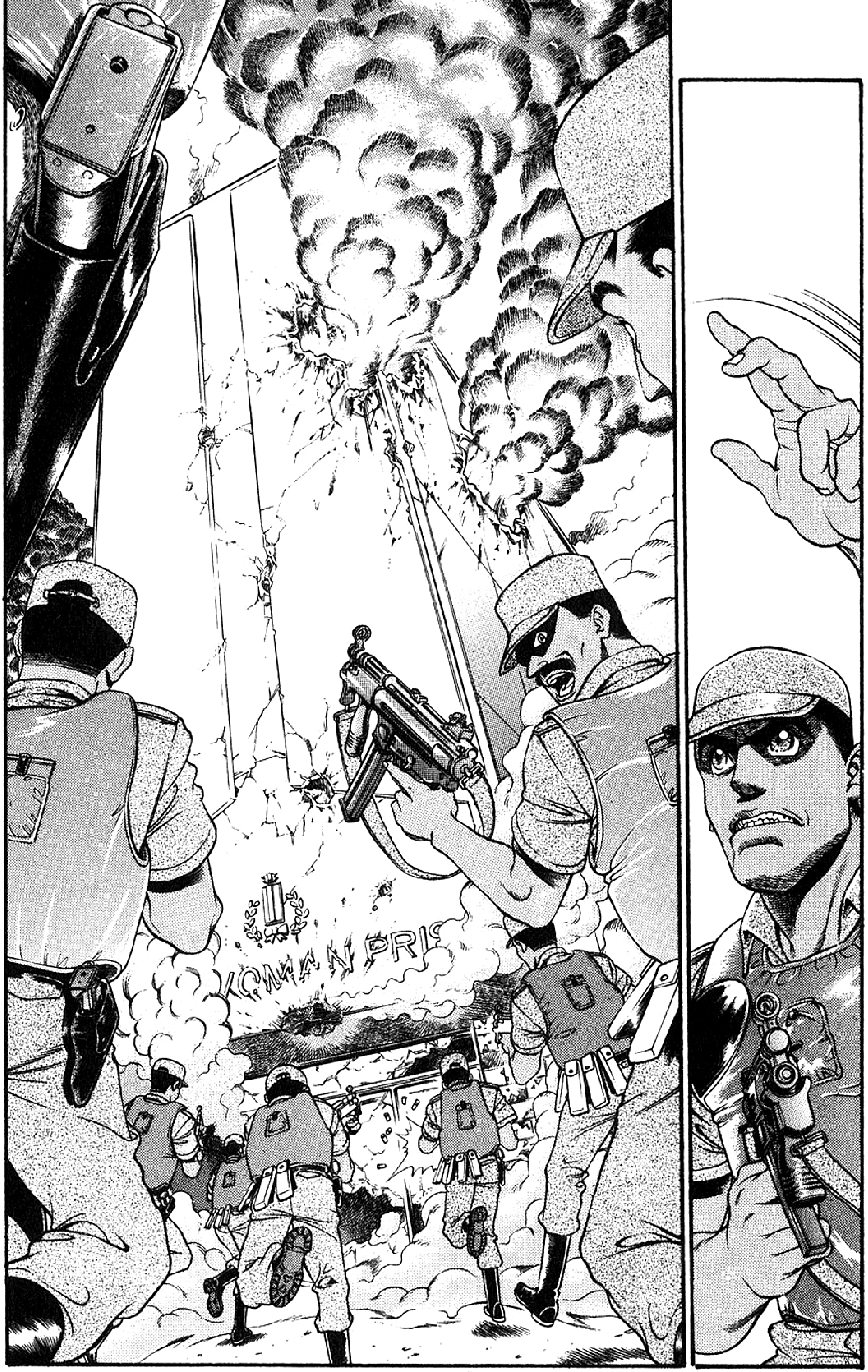

HYEE!!
(SFX) BEEP BEEP BEEP
ピッ ピッ ピッ
DOC-TOR!!
OK!! IT'S BEATING. THE RESUSCITATION WAS SUCCESSFUL.
UH...
DOCTOR!!
THANK YOU!! THANK YOU FOR SAVING HER!


HELGA
COMMANDER
SHE'S SAVED!!
SHE CAME BACK TO LIFE. THAT DOCTOR... IS AMAZING.
I-RENE
AMAZING...SHE SNATCHED HER FROM THE JAWS OF DEATH...IN A FLASH...
I...I...
THANK YOU SO MUCH, DOCTOR BARNES.
えぅ えぅ
SHE...IS A SUPERIOR FIRST OFFICER...AND AN IRREPLACEABLE FRIEND...
WITHOUT HER...I DOUBT I WOULD BE STANDING HERE TALKING TO YOU.


WE OWE IT TO YOU.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
N- NO, IT'S NOTHING.
I ONLY DID MY DUTY.
YOU'VE RESCUED MADAM LINDELL.
SURELY WE CAN PULL OUT NOW. I NEED TO GET THE ASSISTANT COMMANDER TO A HOSPITAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
YES
ズシン
ビリビリビ
WHA...!?


C- COMMANDER!!
ONE OF THE RESCUE CHOPPERS...
WAS DESTROYED BY A SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE!!
……


NO WAY!! I CAN'T TAKE ON ANY MORE!!
EHH
WE STILL HAVE THE COMMANDER AND HELGA AND A FEW MORE.
RESCUE CHOPPER!! DO YOU READ ME?
THIS IS COMMANDER ROSEBANK.
DEPART AT ONCE. GET MADAM LINDELL OUT OF THE COUNTRY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!
WE'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY OUT.
UNDERSTOOD.
HEY!!
WE'RE LEAVING!!

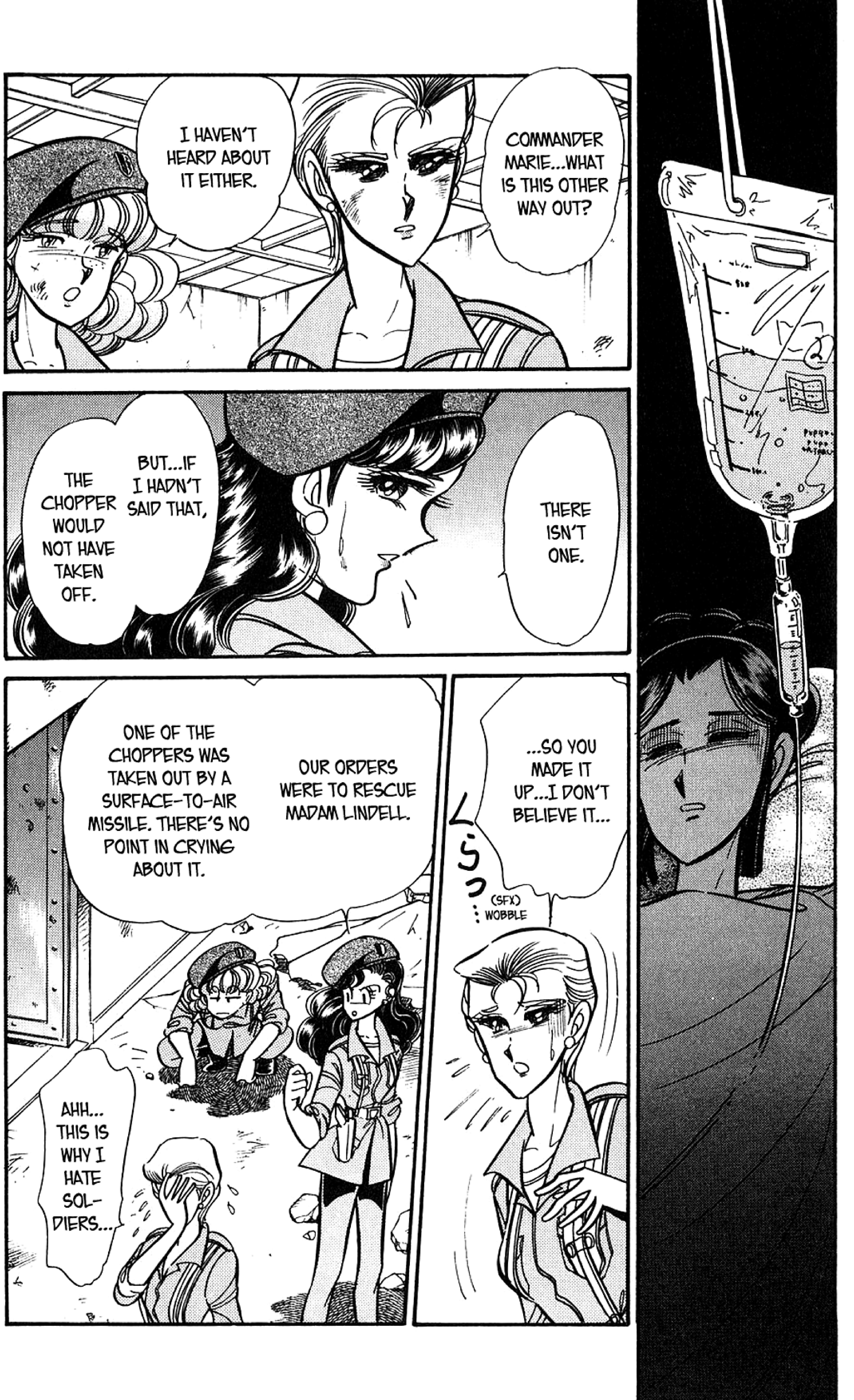


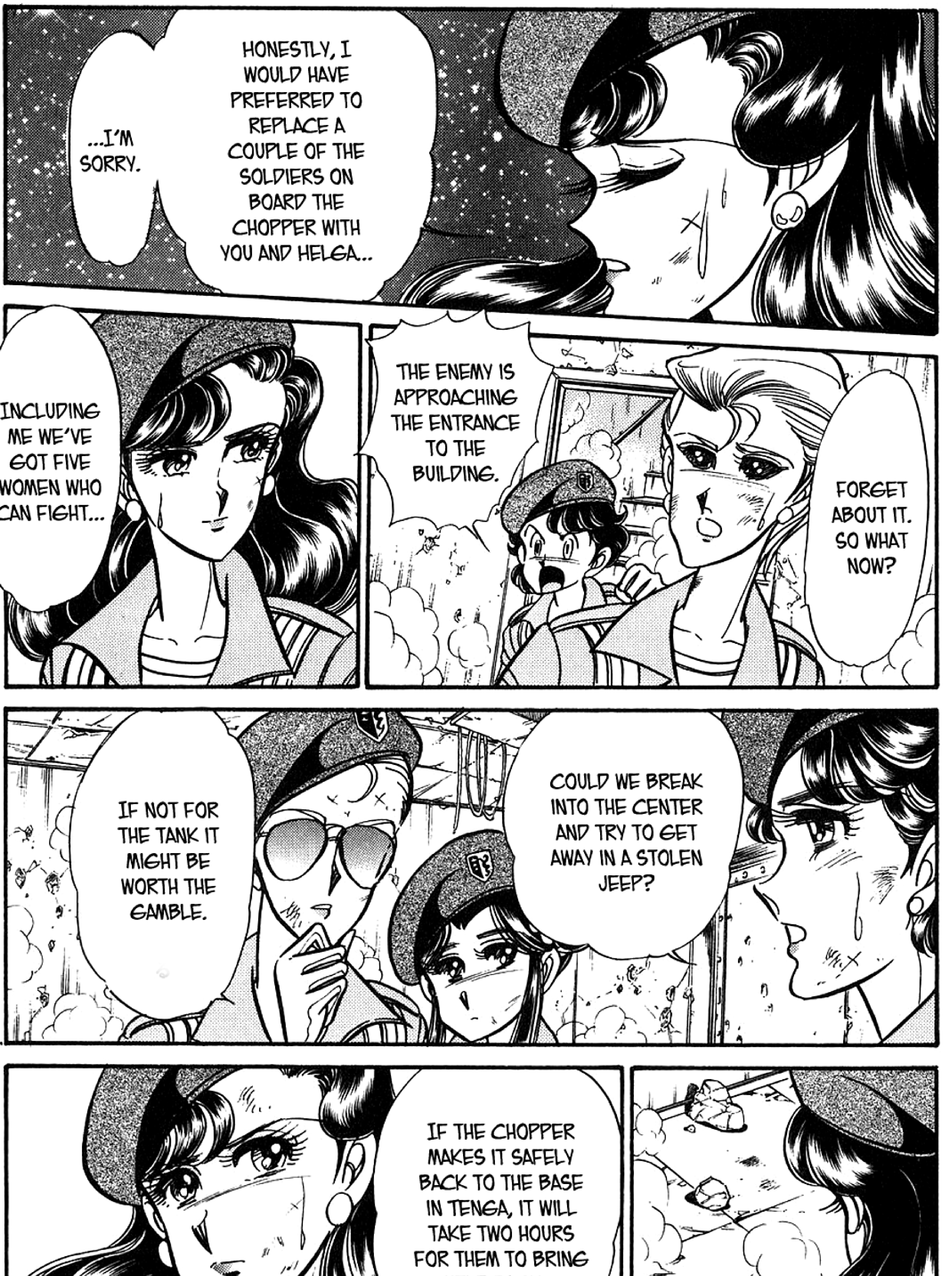
[File23:天使の持つ牙(4)　おわり]

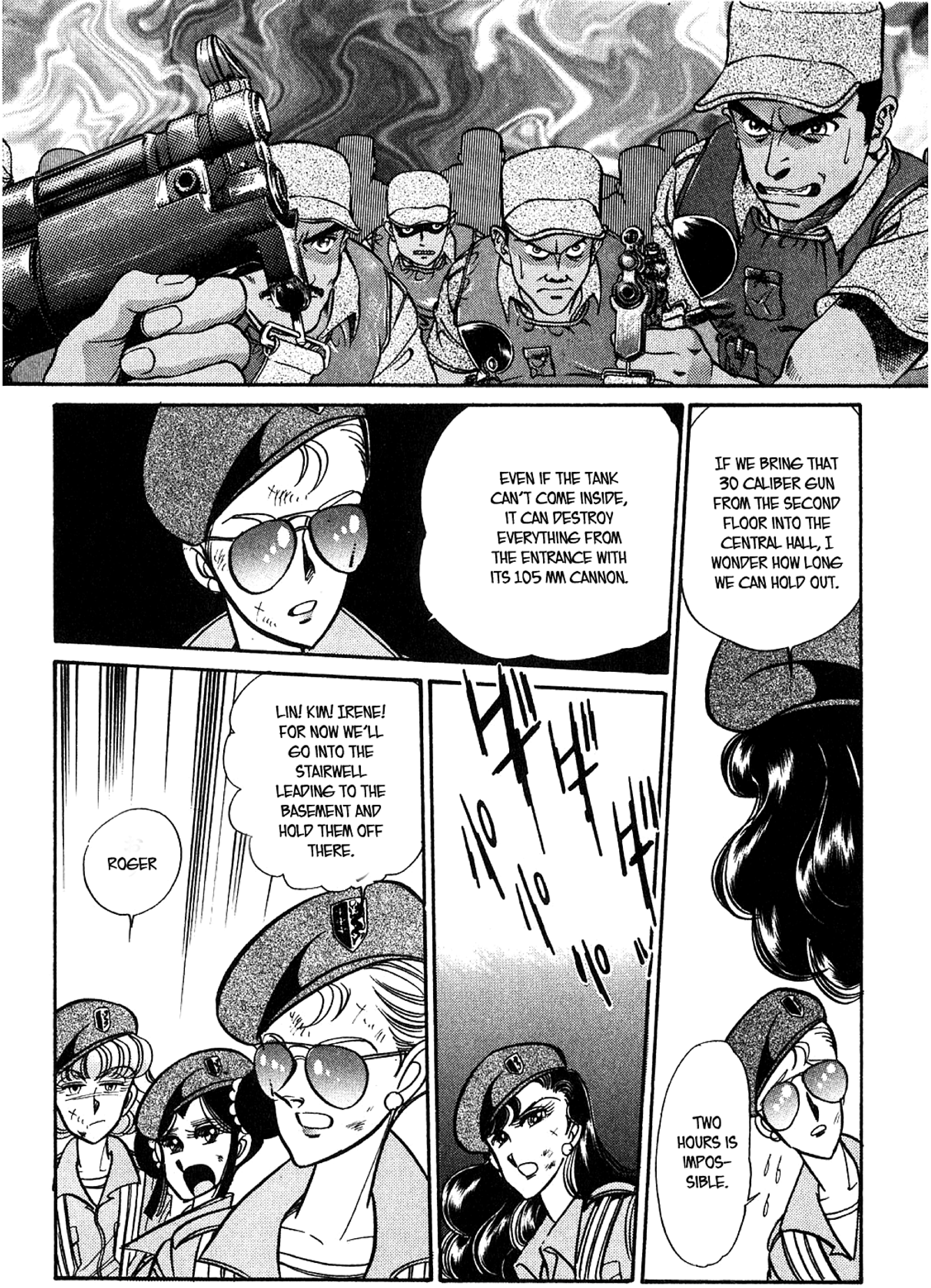
砂の薔薇

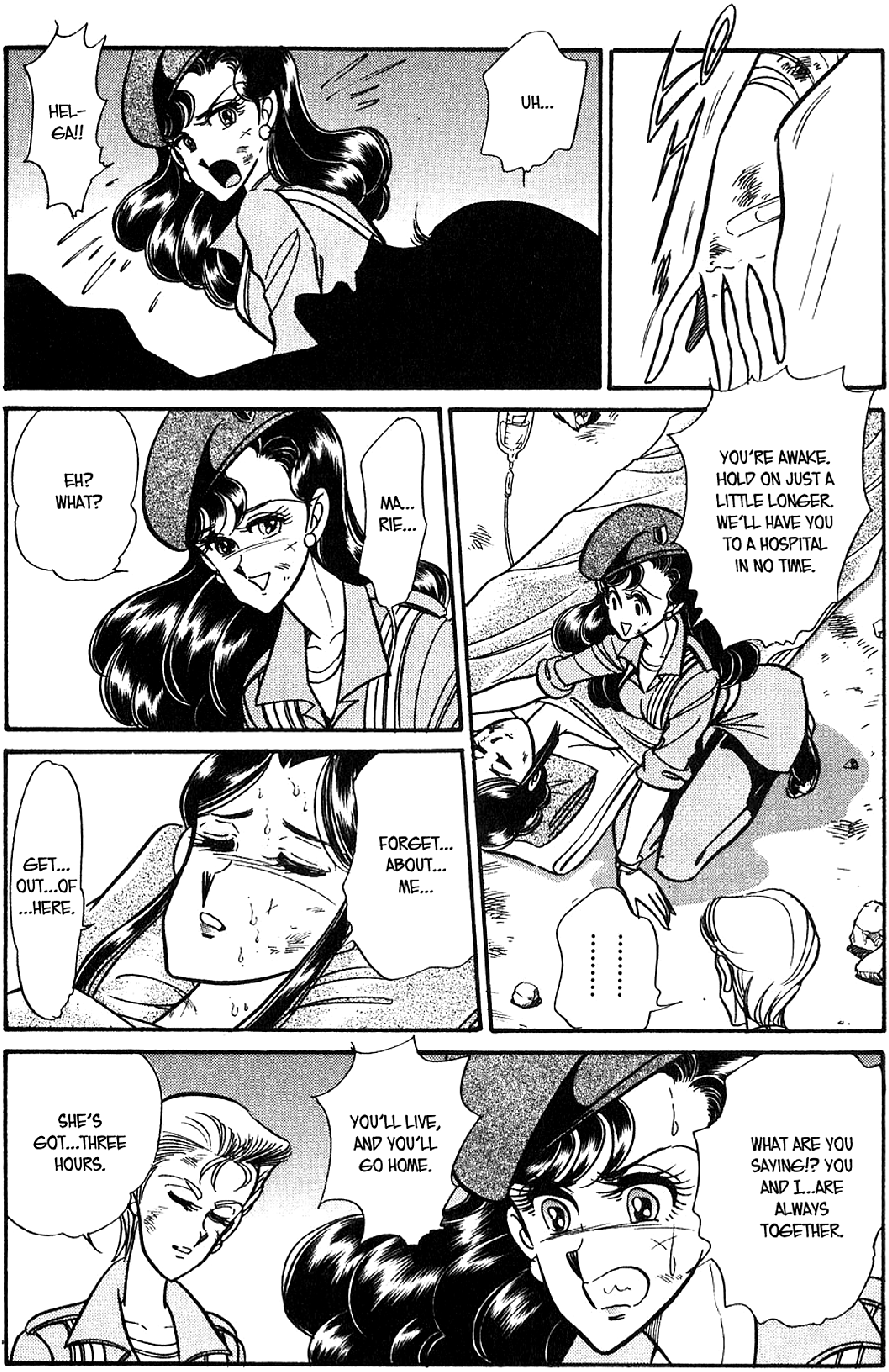
デザート・ローズ

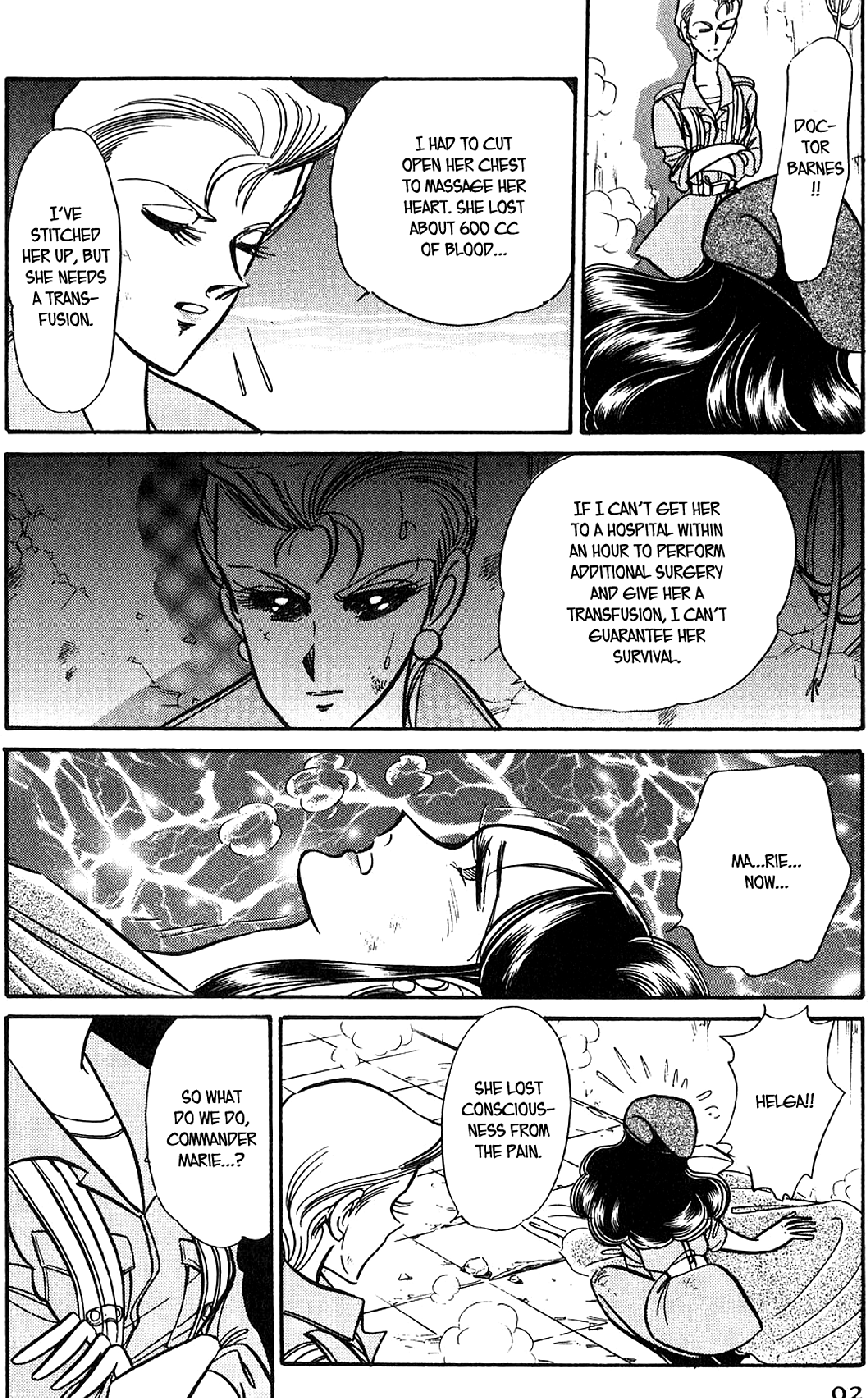
File 23: The Angel's Fang (5)

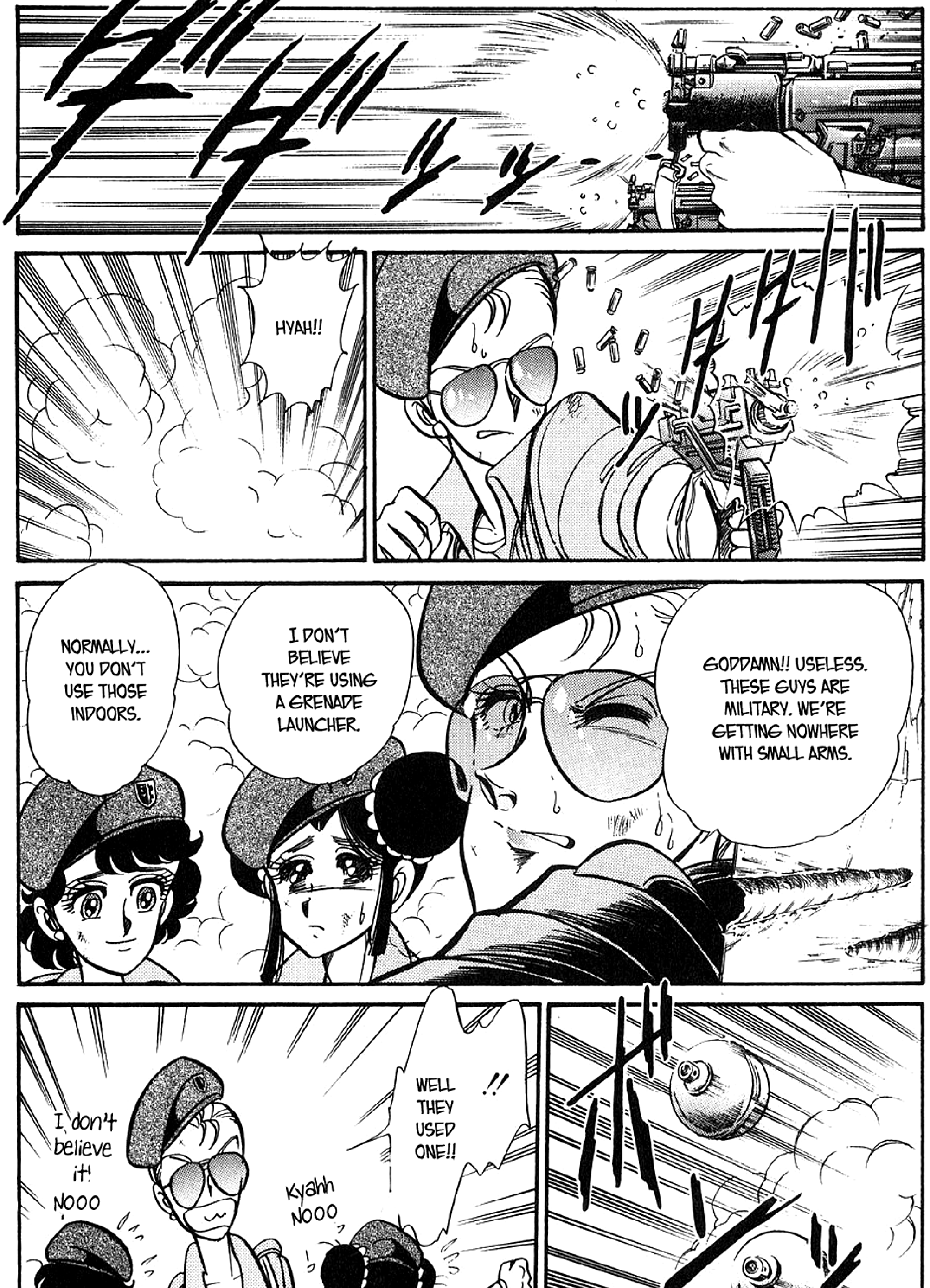

COMMANDER MARIE...WHAT IS THIS OTHER WAY OUT?
I HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT IT EITHER.
THERE ISN'T ONE.
BUT...IF I HADN'T SAID THAT,
THE CHOPPER WOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN OFF.
...SO YOU MADE IT UP...I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
くらっ…
(SFX) WOBBLE
OUR ORDERS WERE TO RESCUE MADAM LINDELL.
ONE OF THE CHOPPERS WAS TAKEN OUT BY A SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE. THERE'S NO POINT IN CRYING ABOUT IT.
AHH... THIS IS WHY I HATE SOLDIERS...

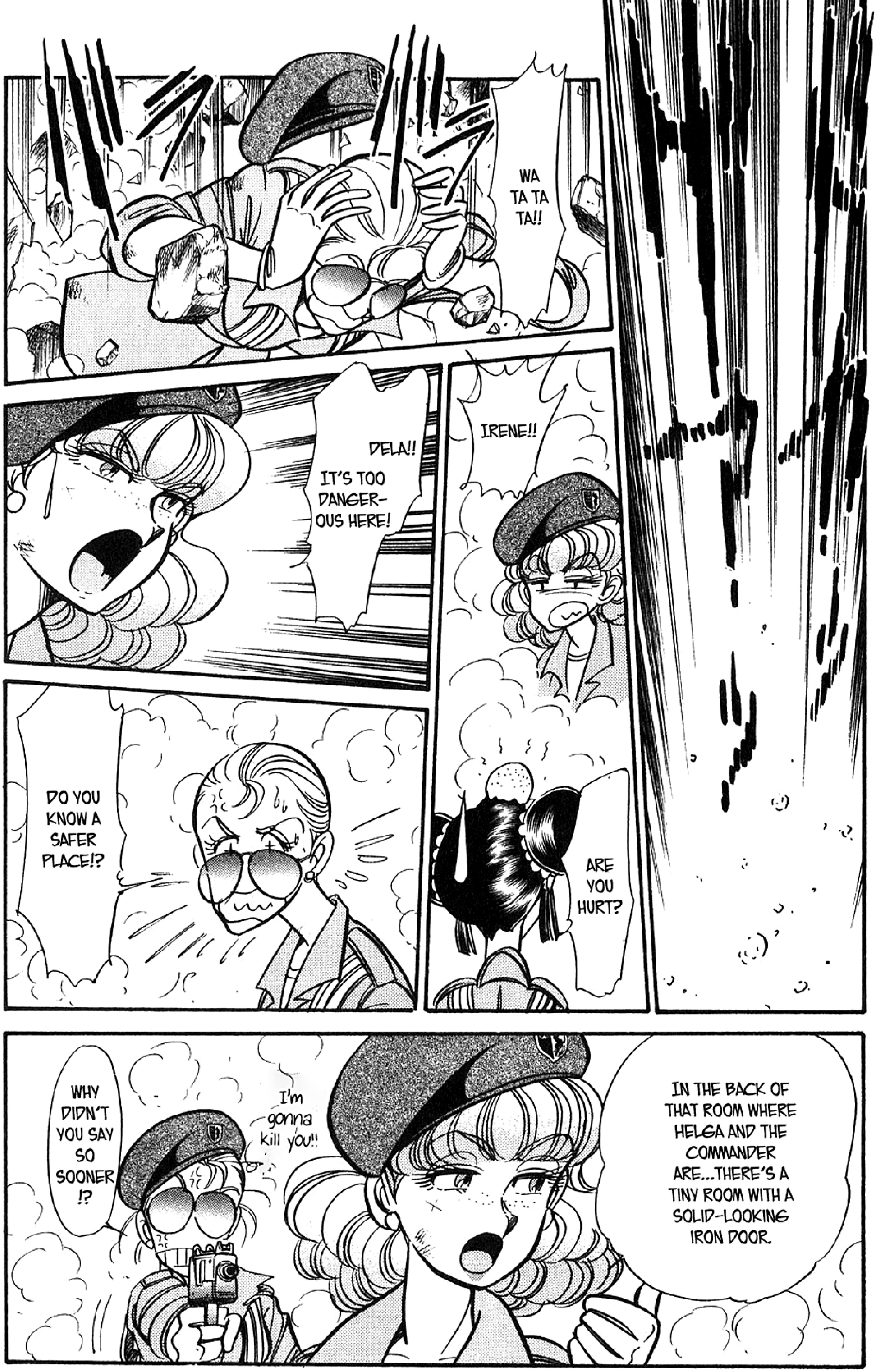

HONESTLY, I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO REPLACE A COUPLE OF THE SOLDIERS ON BOARD THE CHOPPER WITH YOU AND HELGA...
...I'M SORRY.
FORGET ABOUT IT. SO WHAT NOW?
THE ENEMY IS APPROACHING THE ENTRANCE TO THE BUILDING.
INCLUDING ME WE'VE GOT FIVE WOMEN WHO CAN FIGHT...
COULD WE BREAK INTO THE CENTER AND TRY TO GET AWAY IN A STOLEN JEEP?
IF NOT FOR THE TANK IT MIGHT BE WORTH THE GAMBLE.
IF THE CHOPPER MAKES IT SAFELY BACK TO THE BASE IN TENGA, IT WILL TAKE TWO HOURS FOR THEM TO BRING HELP BACK...

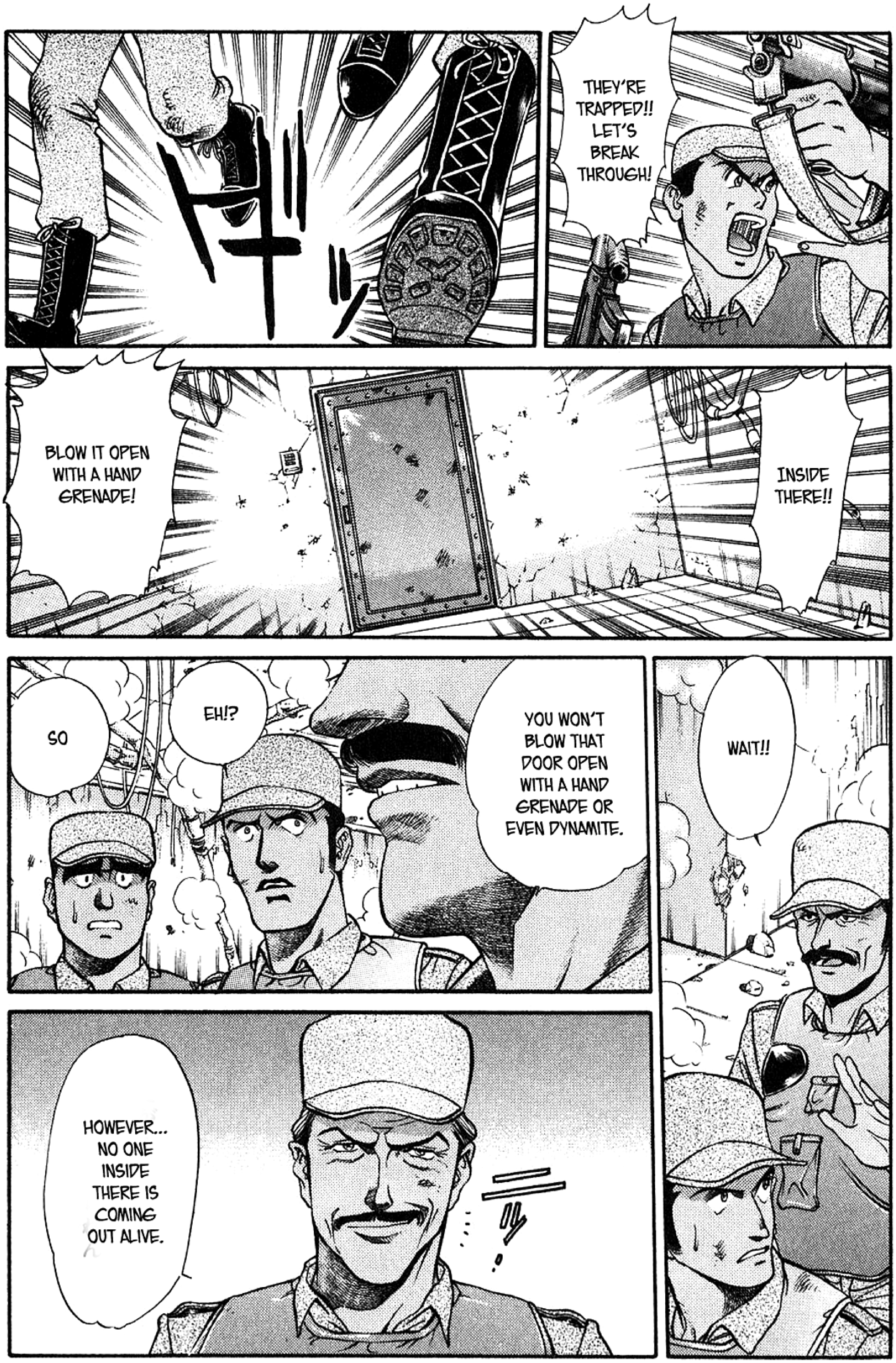

EVEN IF THE TANK CAN'T COME INSIDE, IT CAN DESTROY EVERYTHING FROM THE ENTRANCE WITH ITS 105 MM CANNON.
IF WE BRING THAT 30 CALIBER GUN FROM THE SECOND FLOOR INTO THE CENTRAL HALL, I WONDER HOW LONG WE CAN HOLD OUT.
TWO HOURS IS IMPOSSIBLE.
LIN! KIM! IRENE! FOR NOW WE'LL GO INTO THE STAIRWELL LEADING TO THE BASEMENT AND HOLD THEM OFF THERE.
ROGER

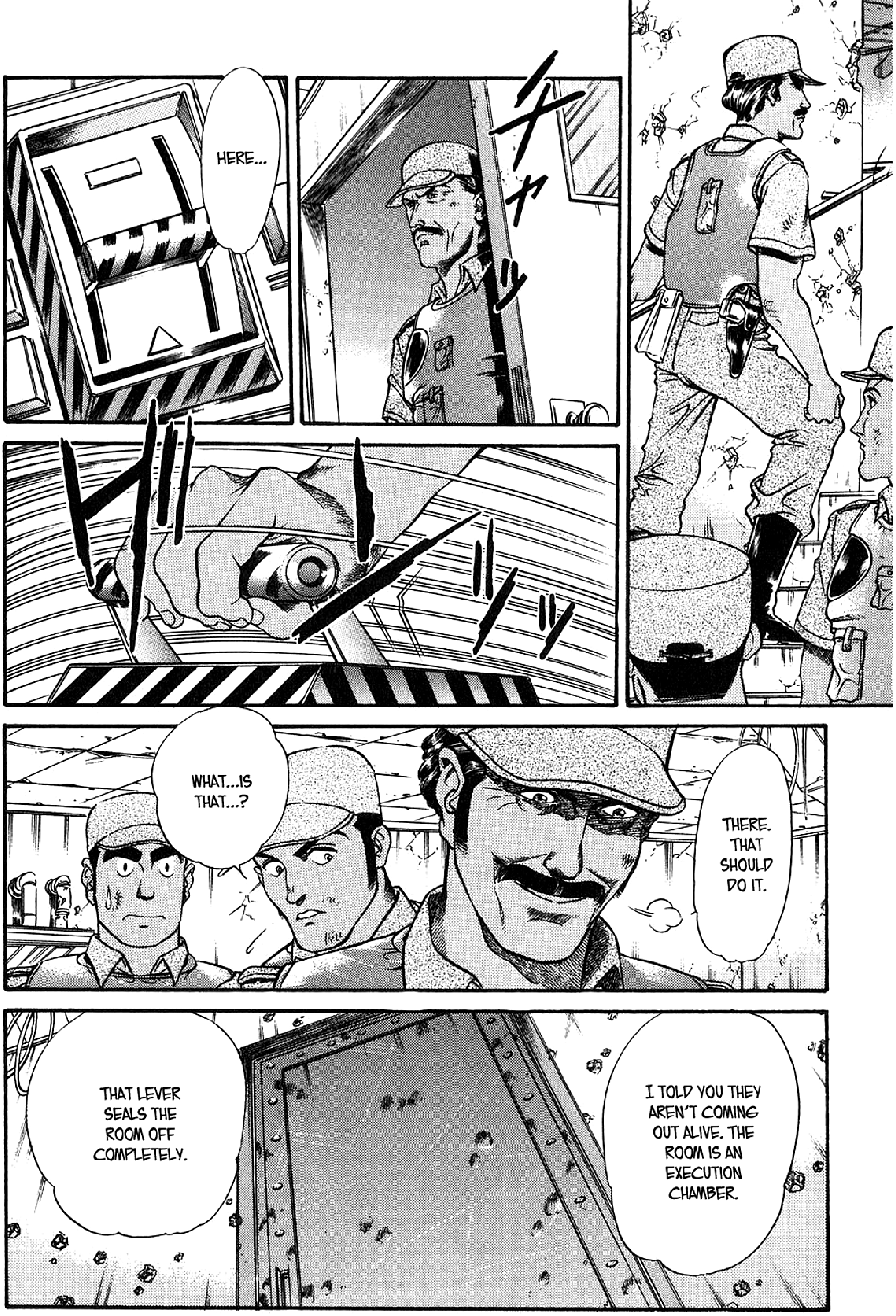

UH...
HEL-GA!!
YOU'RE AWAKE. HOLD ON JUST A LITTLE LONGER. WE'LL HAVE YOU TO A HOSPITAL IN NO TIME.
......
MA... RIE...
EH? WHAT?
FORGET... ABOUT... ME...
GET... OUT...OF ...HERE.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? YOU AND I...ARE ALWAYS TOGETHER.
YOU'LL LIVE, AND YOU'LL GO HOME.
SHE'S GOT...THREE HOURS.

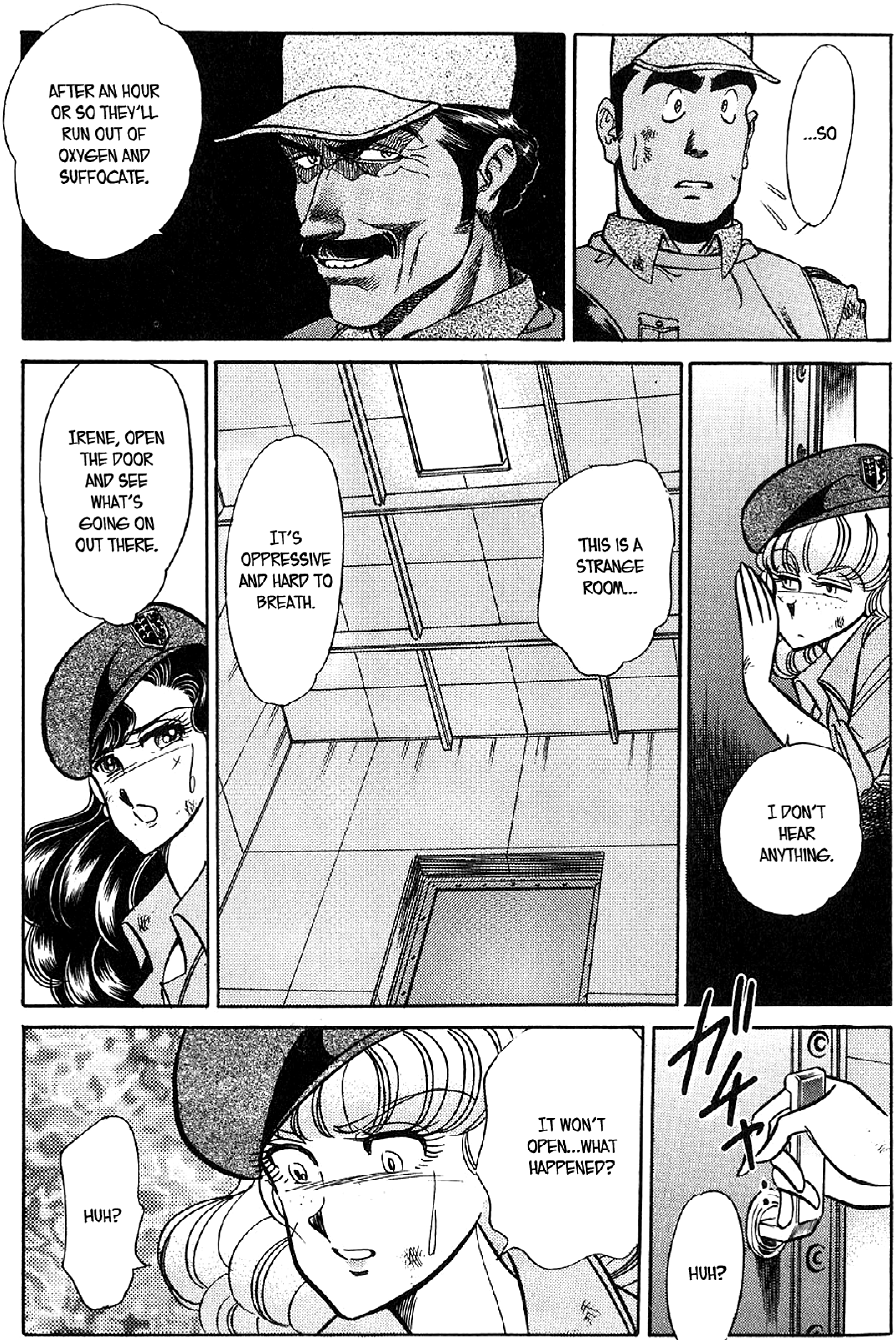

DOCTOR BARNES!!
I HAD TO CUT OPEN HER CHEST TO MASSAGE HER HEART. SHE LOST ABOUT 600 CC OF BLOOD...
I'VE STITCHED HER UP, BUT SHE NEEDS A TRANSFUSION.
IF I CAN'T GET HER TO A HOSPITAL WITHIN AN HOUR TO PERFORM ADDITIONAL SURGERY AND GIVE HER A TRANSFUSION, I CAN'T GUARANTEE HER SURVIVAL.
MA...RIE... NOW...
HELGA!!
SHE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS FROM THE PAIN.
SO WHAT DO WE DO, COMMANDER MARIE...?

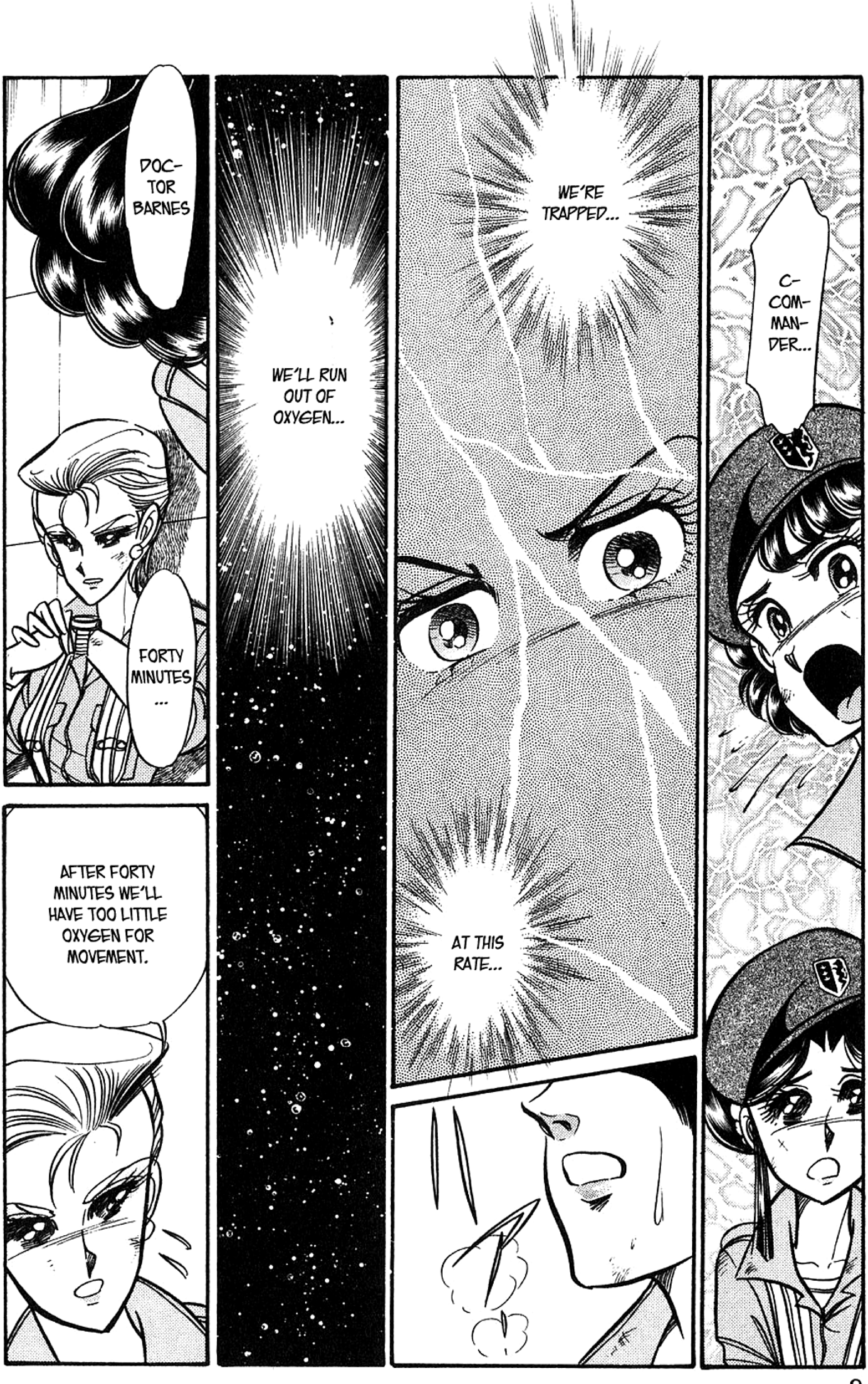

ダダダッ
ダダダッ
HYAH!!
GODDAMN!! USELESS. THESE GUYS ARE MILITARY. WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE WITH SMALL ARMS.
I DON'T BELIEVE THEY'RE USING A GRENADE LAUNCHER.
NORMALLY... YOU DON'T USE THOSE INDOORS.
ボンッ
!!
WELL THEY USED ONE!!
Kyahh NOOO
I don't believe it! NOOO

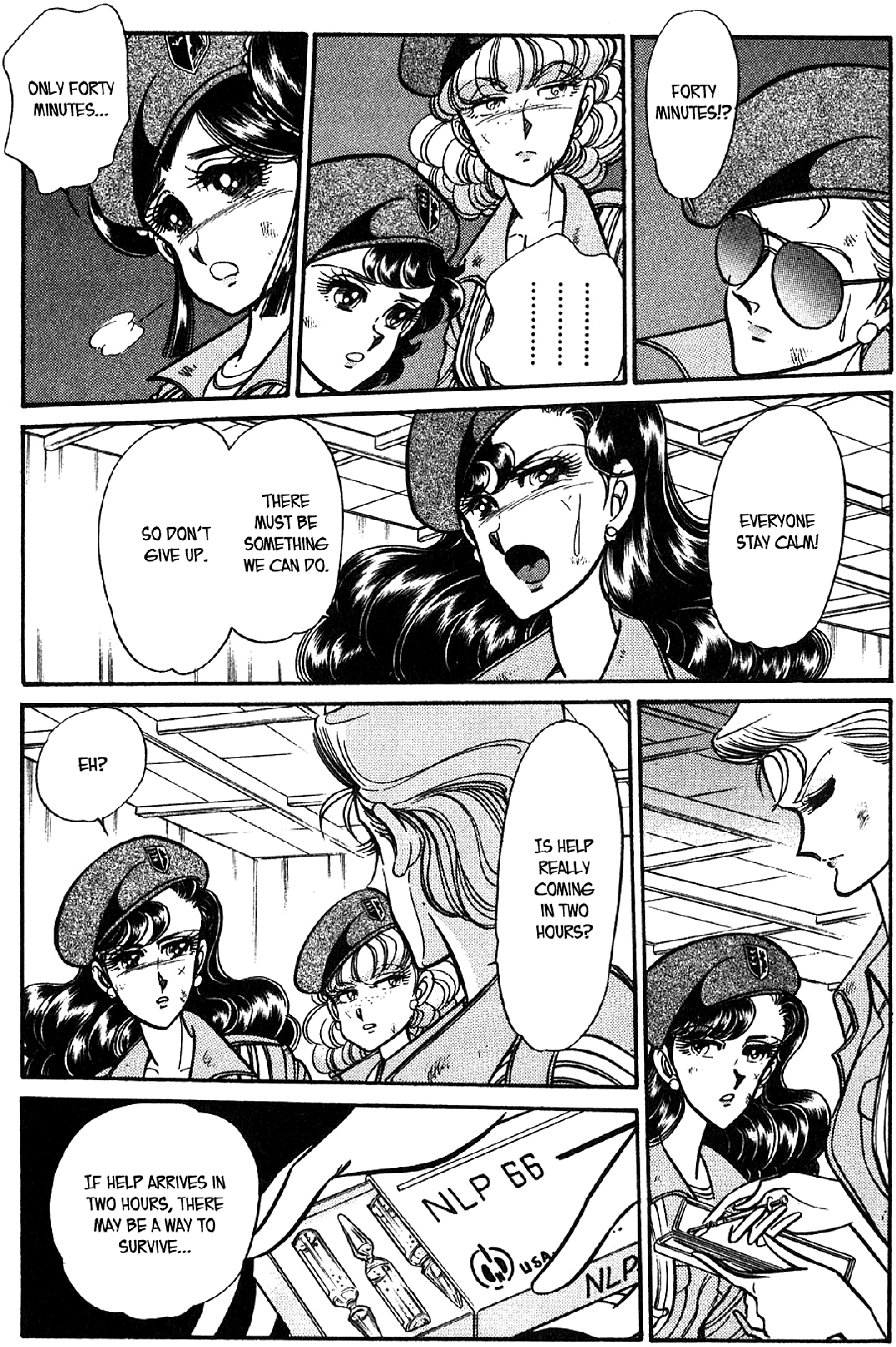

WA TA TA TA!!
IRENE!!
DELA!! IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS HERE!
ARE YOU HURT?
DO YOU KNOW A SAFER PLACE!?
IN THE BACK OF THAT ROOM WHERE HELGA AND THE COMMANDER ARE...THERE'S A TINY ROOM WITH A SOLID-LOOKING IRON DOOR.
I'm gonna kill you!!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO SOONER!?

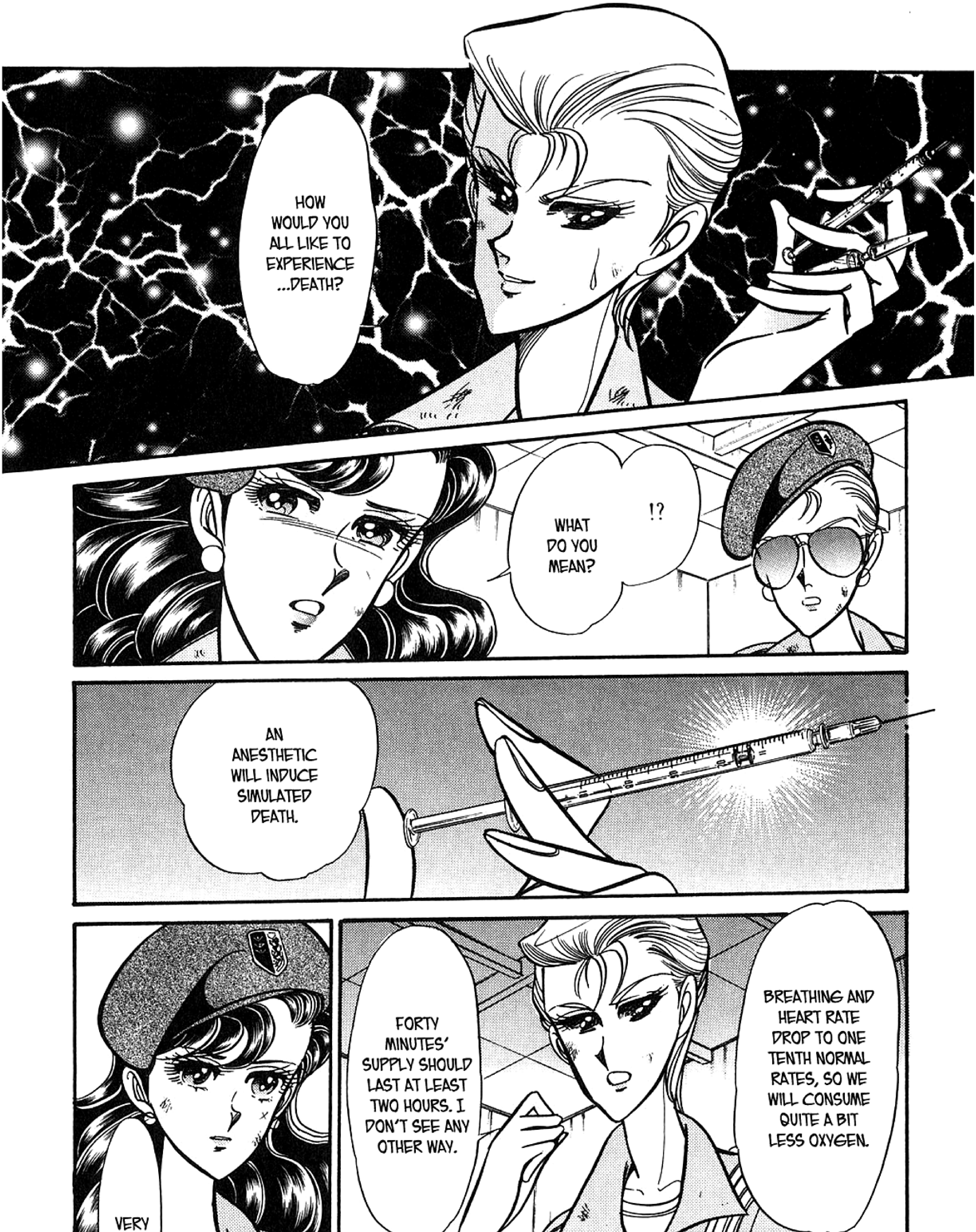

THEY'RE TRAPPED!! LET'S BREAK THROUGH!
ドギッ
INSIDE THERE!!
BLOW IT OPEN WITH A HAND GRENADE!
WAIT!!
YOU WON'T BLOW THAT DOOR OPEN WITH A HAND GRENADE OR EVEN DYNAMITE.
EH!?
SO
HOWEVER... NO ONE INSIDE THERE IS COMING OUT ALIVE.
ニッ

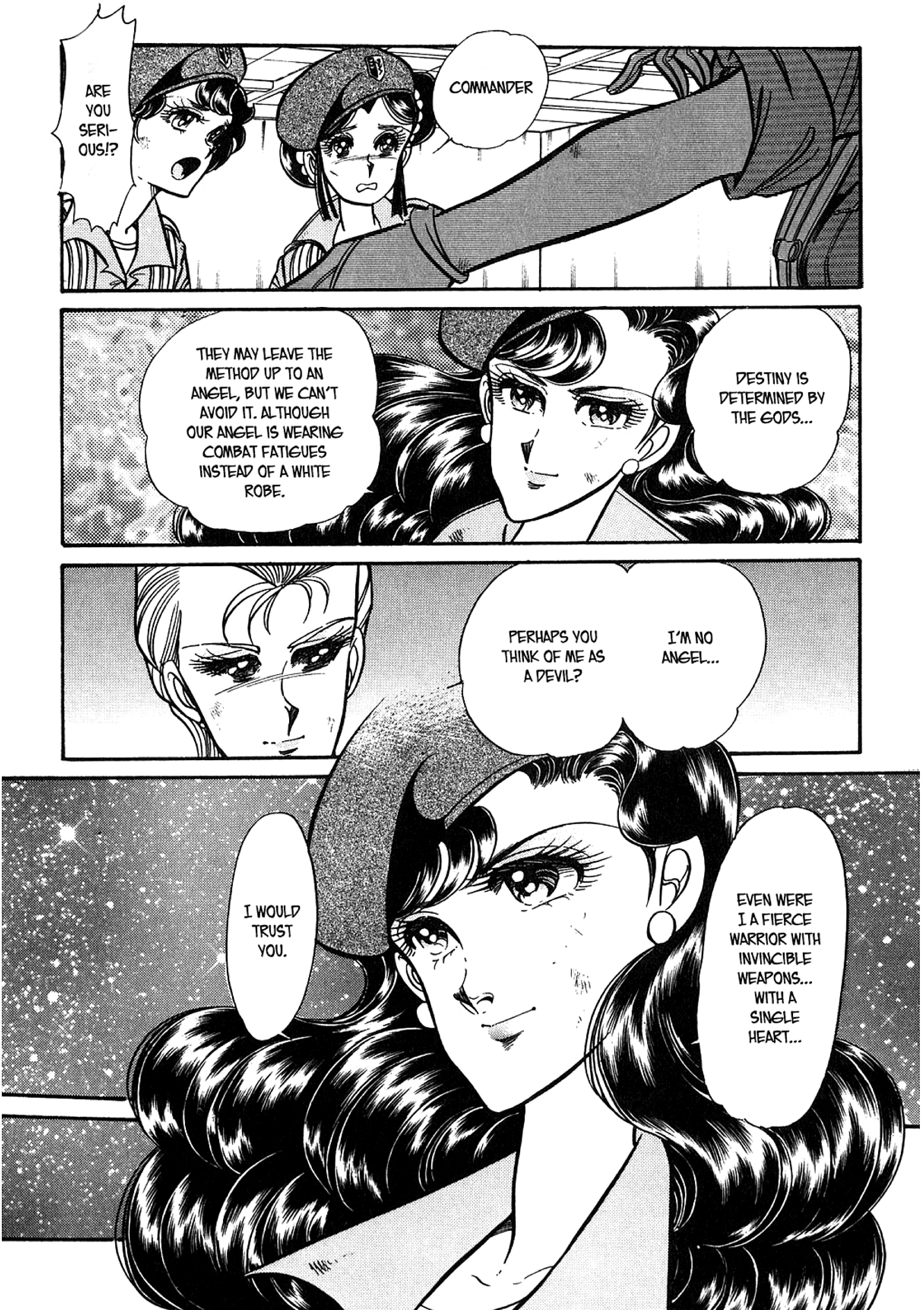

HERE...
THERE. THAT SHOULD DO IT.
WHAT...IS THAT...?
I TOLD YOU THEY AREN'T COMING OUT ALIVE. THE ROOM IS AN EXECUTION CHAMBER.
THAT LEVER SEALS THE ROOM OFF COMPLETELY.

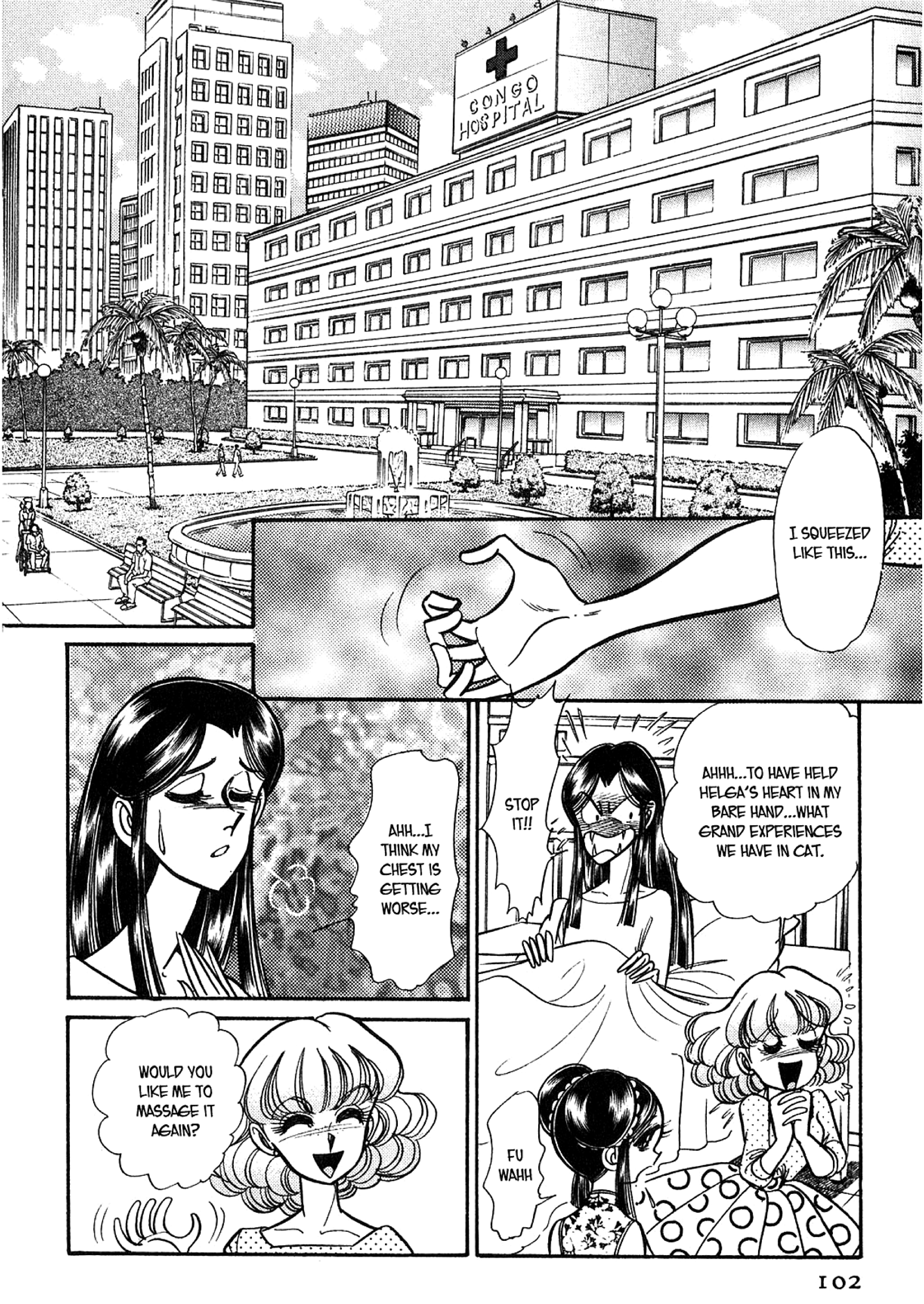

AFTER AN HOUR OR SO THEY'LL RUN OUT OF OXYGEN AND SUFFOCATE.
...SO
IRENE, OPEN THE DOOR AND SEE WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE.
IT'S OPPRESSIVE AND HARD TO BREATH.
THIS IS A STRANGE ROOM...
I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING.
HUH?
IT WON'T OPEN...WHAT HAPPENED?
ガチャ
HUH?

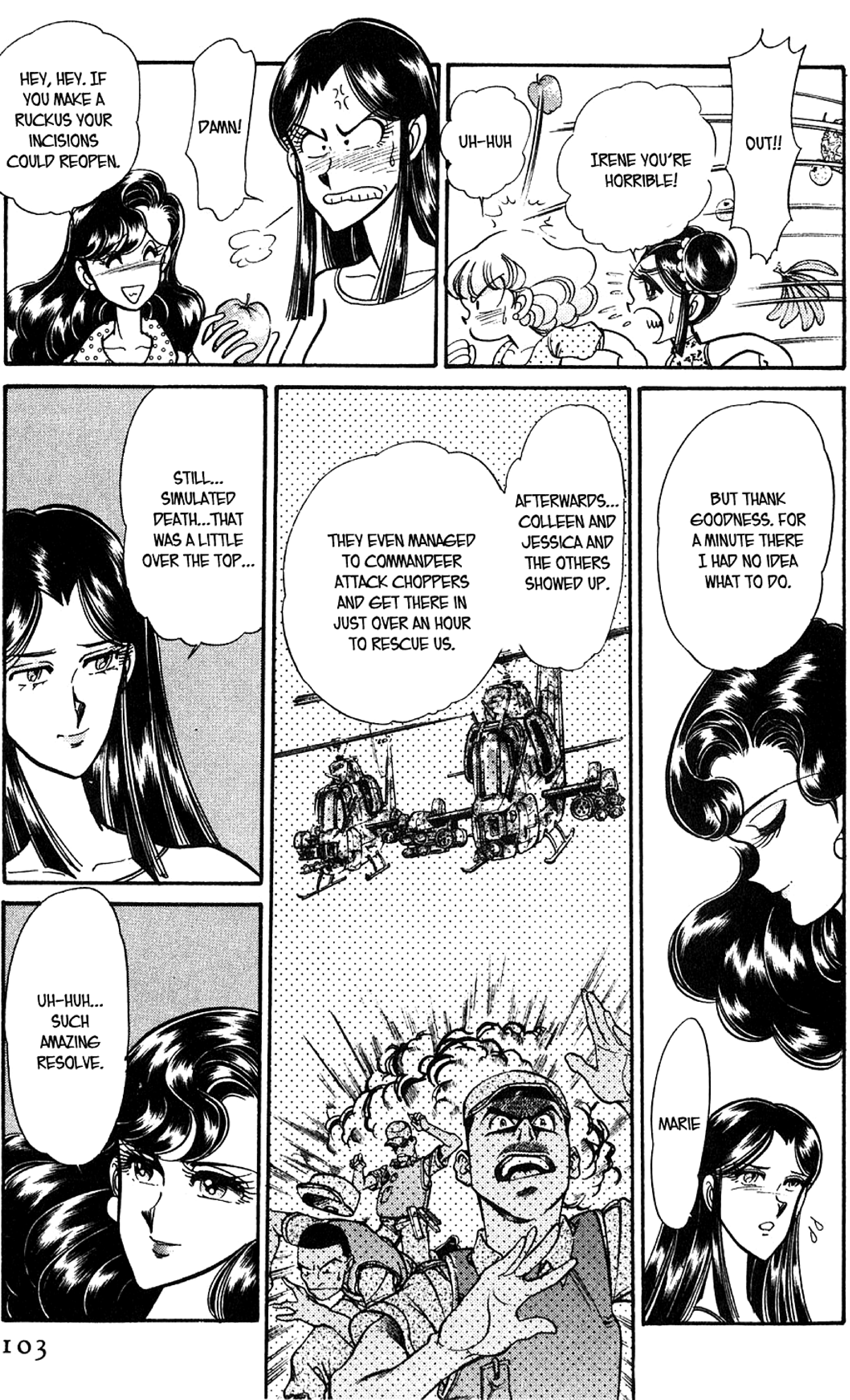

C-COMMANDER...
WE'RE TRAPPED...
AT THIS RATE...
WE'LL RUN OUT OF OXYGEN...
DOCTOR BARNES
FORTY MINUTES...
AFTER FORTY MINUTES WE'LL HAVE TOO LITTLE OXYGEN FOR MOVEMENT.

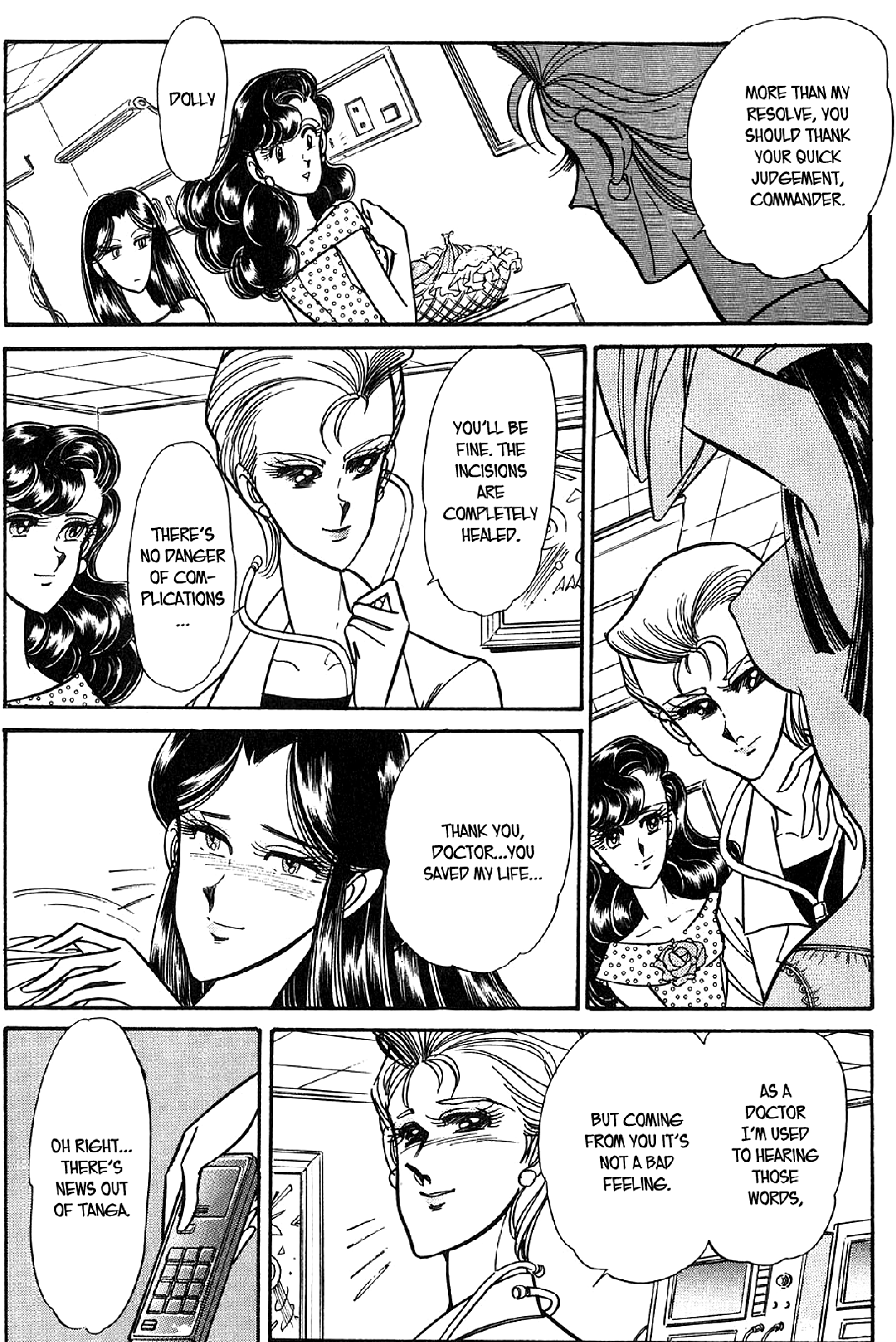

FORTY MINUTES!?
......
ONLY FORTY MINUTES...
EVERYONE STAY CALM!
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO.
SO DON'T GIVE UP.
IS HELP REALLY COMING IN TWO HOURS?
EH?
IF HELP ARRIVES IN TWO HOURS, THERE MAY BE A WAY TO SURVIVE...
NLP 66
USA
NLP

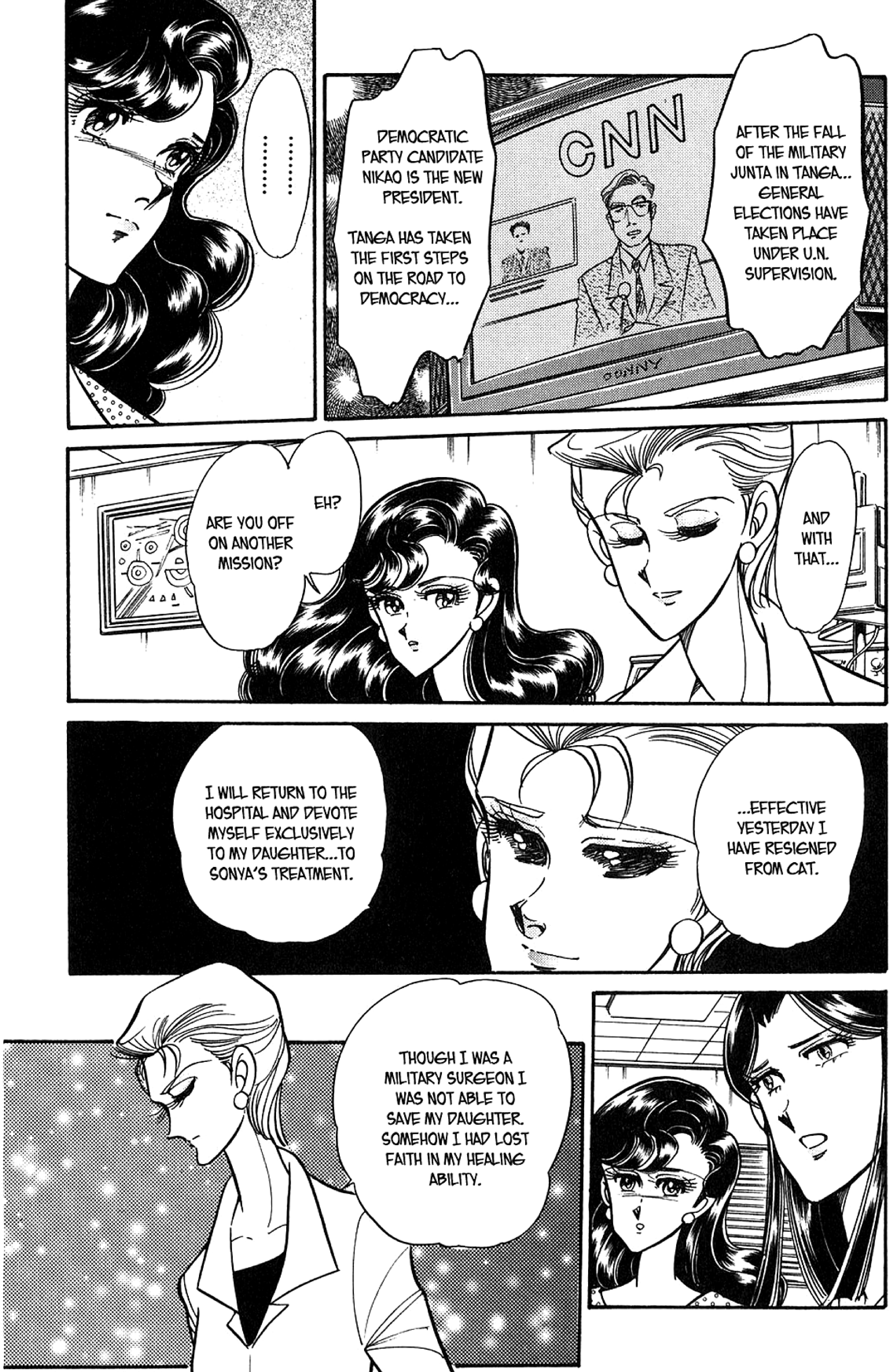

HOW WOULD YOU ALL LIKE TO EXPERIENCE ...DEATH?
!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AN ANESTHETIC WILL INDUCE SIMULATED DEATH.
BREATHING AND HEART RATE DROP TO ONE TENTH NORMAL RATES, SO WE WILL CONSUME QUITE A BIT LESS OXYGEN.
FORTY MINUTES' SUPPLY SHOULD LAST AT LEAST TWO HOURS. I DON'T SEE ANY OTHER WAY.
VERY WELL.

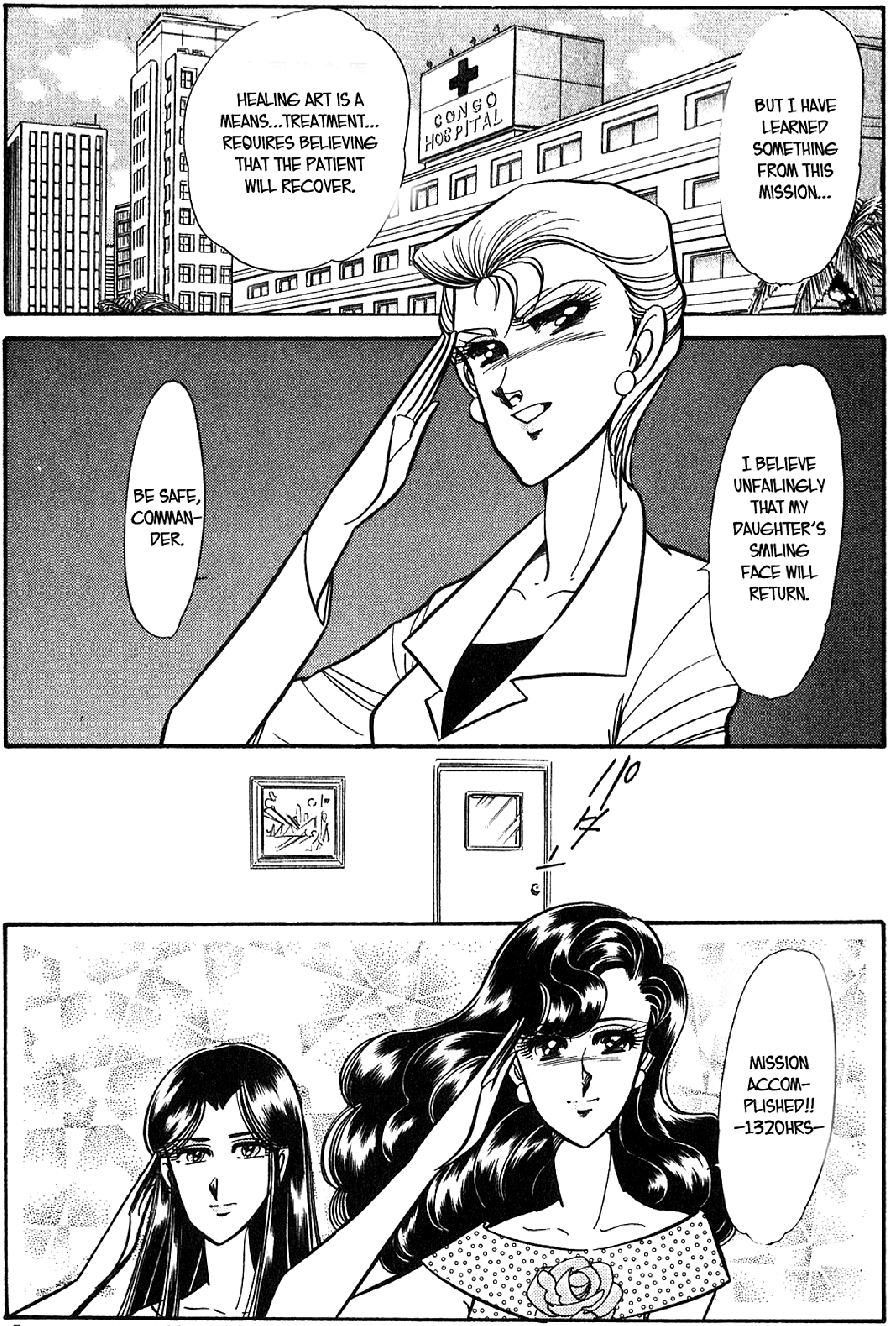

COMMANDER
ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
DESTINY IS DETERMINED BY THE GODS...
THEY MAY LEAVE THE METHOD UP TO AN ANGEL, BUT WE CAN'T AVOID IT. ALTHOUGH OUR ANGEL IS WEARING COMBAT FATIGUES INSTEAD OF A WHITE ROBE.
I'M NO ANGEL...
PERHAPS YOU THINK OF ME AS A DEVIL?
EVEN WERE I A FIERCE WARRIOR WITH INVINCIBLE WEAPONS... WITH A SINGLE HEART...
I WOULD TRUST YOU.


CONGO HOSPITAL
I SQUEEZED LIKE THIS...
AHHH...TO HAVE HELD HELGA'S HEART IN MY BARE HAND...WHAT GRAND EXPERIENCES WE HAVE IN CAT.
STOP IT!!
FU WAHH
AHH...I THINK MY CHEST IS GETTING WORSE...
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO MASSAGE IT AGAIN?


OUT!!
IRENE YOU'RE HORRIBLE!
UH-HUH
DAMN!
HEY, HEY. IF YOU MAKE A RUCKUS YOUR INCISIONS COULD REOPEN.
BUT THANK GOODNESS. FOR A MINUTE THERE I HAD NO IDEA WHAT TO DO.
MARIE
AFTERWARDS... COLLEEN AND JESSICA AND THE OTHERS SHOWED UP.
THEY EVEN MANAGED TO COMMANDEER ATTACK CHOPPERS AND GET THERE IN JUST OVER AN HOUR TO RESCUE US.
STILL... SIMULATED DEATH...THAT WAS A LITTLE OVER THE TOP...
UH-HUH... SUCH AMAZING RESOLVE.

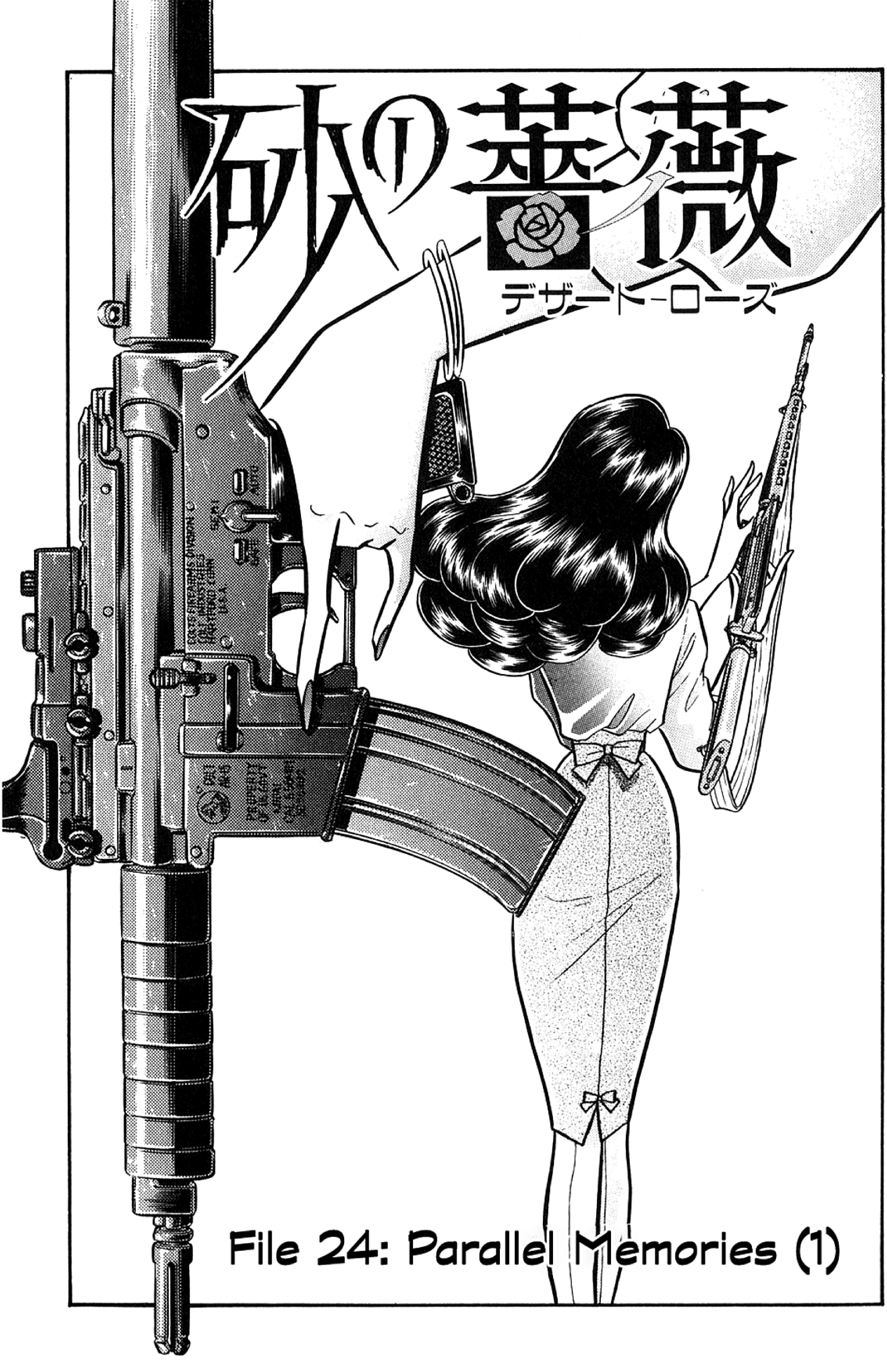

MORE THAN MY RESOLVE, YOU SHOULD THANK YOUR QUICK JUDGEMENT, COMMANDER.
DOLLY
YOU'LL BE FINE. THE INCISIONS ARE COMPLETELY HEALED.
THERE'S NO DANGER OF COMPLICATIONS ...
THANK YOU, DOCTOR...YOU SAVED MY LIFE...
AS A DOCTOR I'M USED TO HEARING THOSE WORDS,
BUT COMING FROM YOU IT'S NOT A BAD FEELING.
OH RIGHT... THERE'S NEWS OUT OF TANGA.


CNN
SONNY
AFTER THE FALL OF THE MILITARY JUNTA IN TANGA... GENERAL ELECTIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE UNDER U.N. SUPERVISION.
DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATE NIKAO IS THE NEW PRESIDENT.
TANGA HAS TAKEN THE FIRST STEPS ON THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY...
……
AND WITH THAT...
EH?
ARE YOU OFF ON ANOTHER MISSION?
...EFFECTIVE YESTERDAY I HAVE RESIGNED FROM CAT.
I WILL RETURN TO THE HOSPITAL AND DEVOTE MYSELF EXCLUSIVELY TO MY DAUGHTER...TO SONYA'S TREATMENT.
THOUGH I WAS A MILITARY SURGEON I WAS NOT ABLE TO SAVE MY DAUGHTER. SOMEHOW I HAD LOST FAITH IN MY HEALING ABILITY.


BUT I HAVE LEARNED SOMETHING FROM THIS MISSION...
CONGO HOSPITAL
HEALING ART IS A MEANS...TREATMENT... REQUIRES BELIEVING THAT THE PATIENT WILL RECOVER.
I BELIEVE UNFAILINGLY THAT MY DAUGHTER'S SMILING FACE WILL RETURN.
BE SAFE, COMMANDER.
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!! -1320HRS-

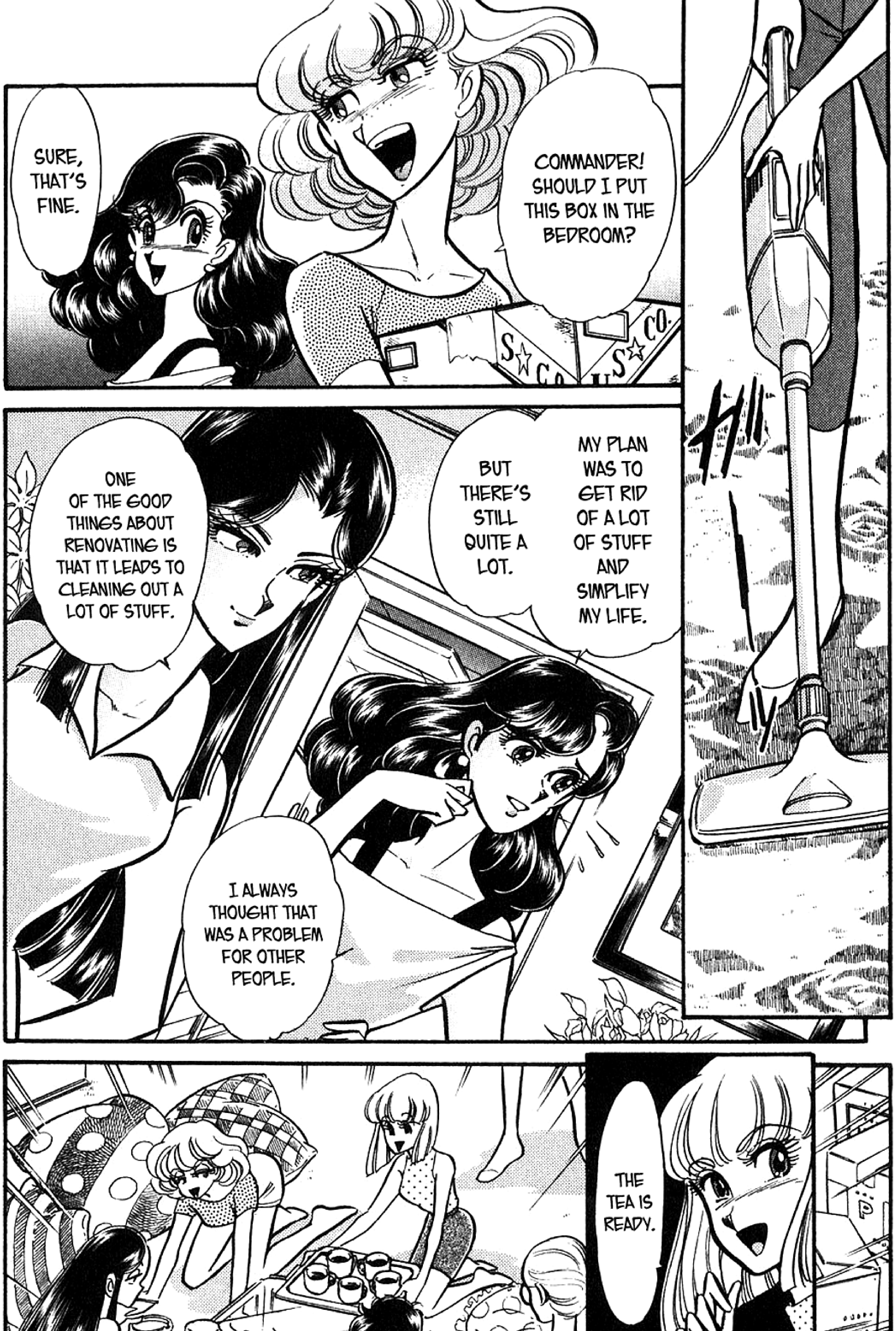
［File23：天使の持つ牙(5)　おわり］

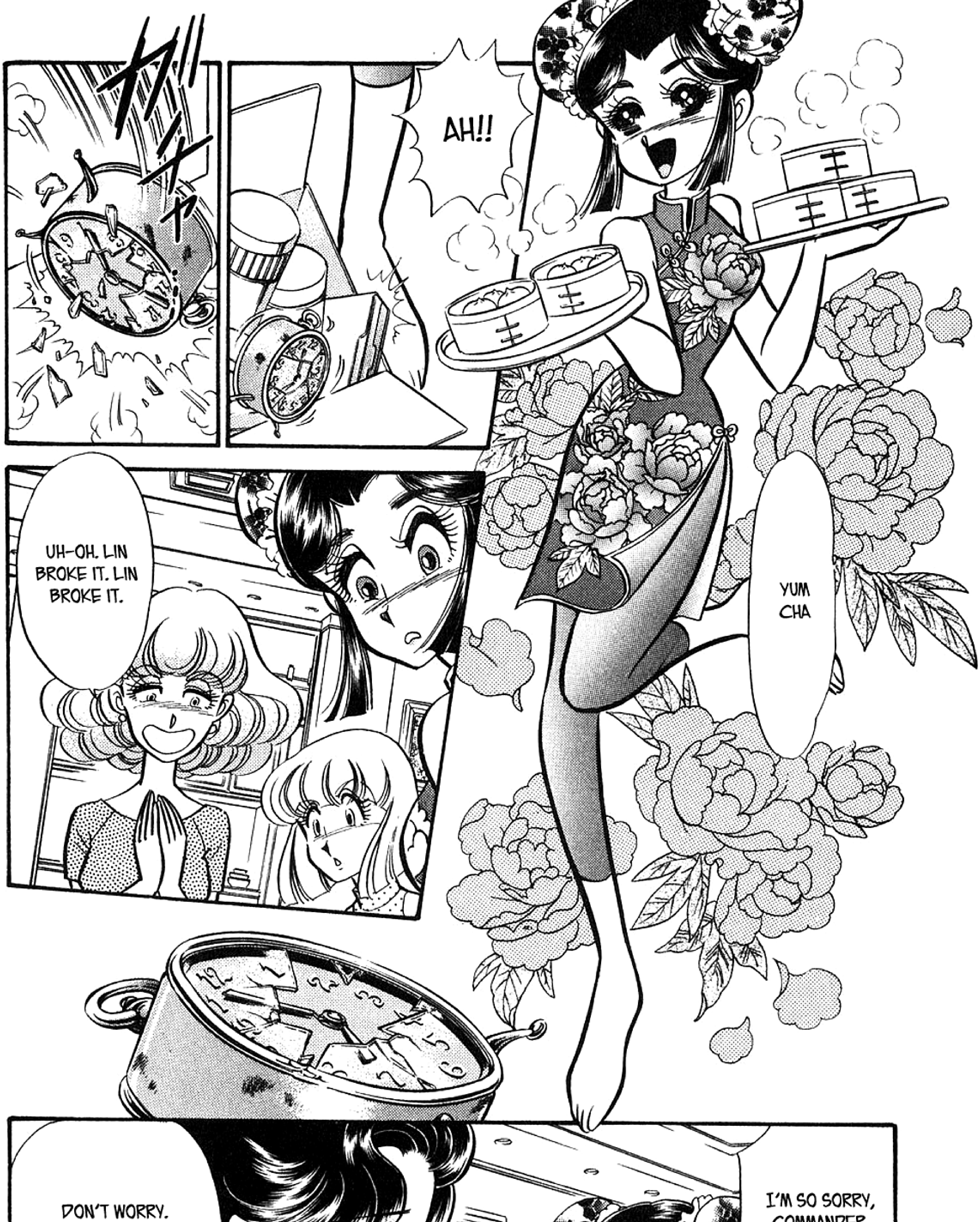
File:24 Parallel Memories

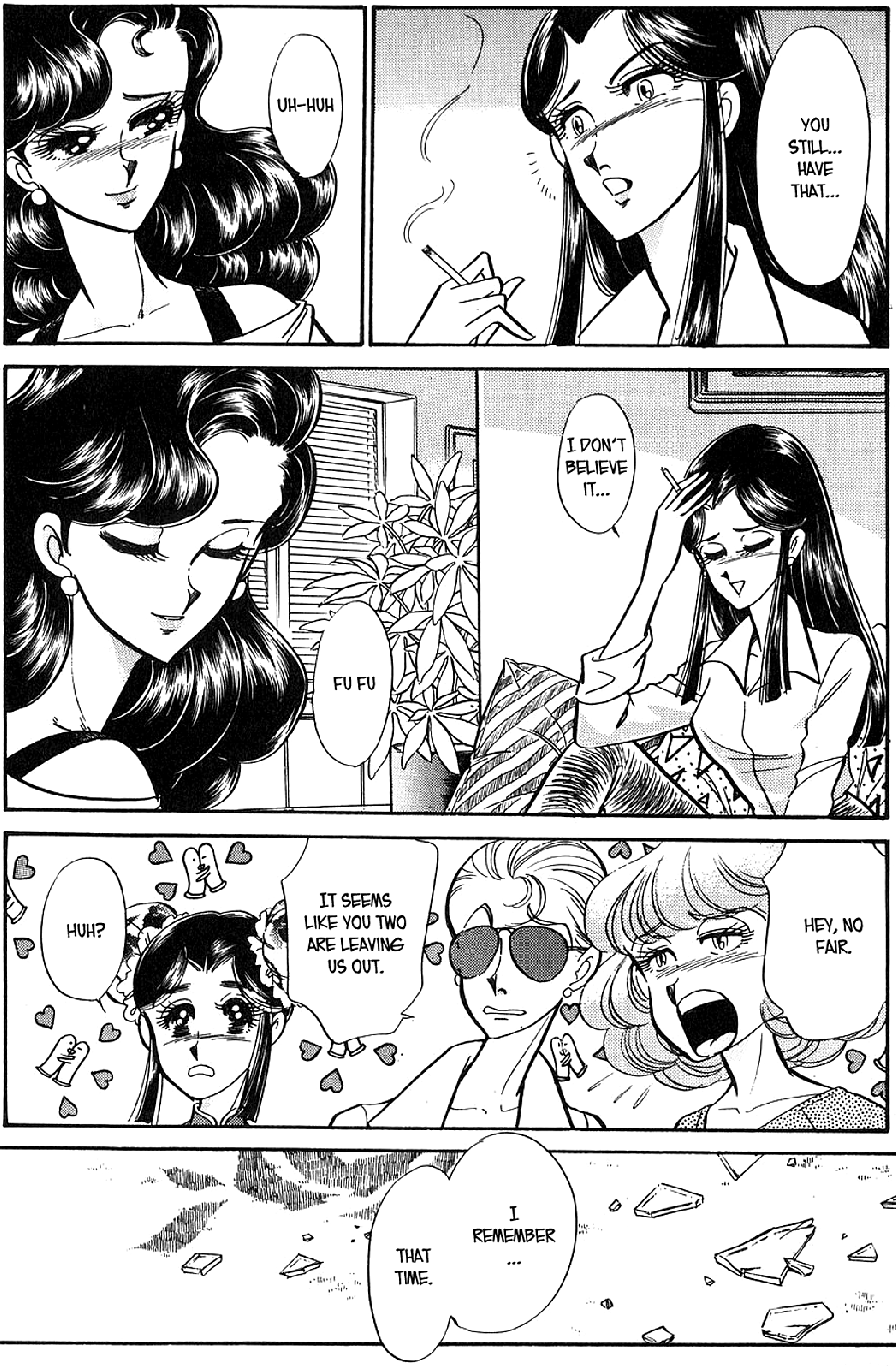


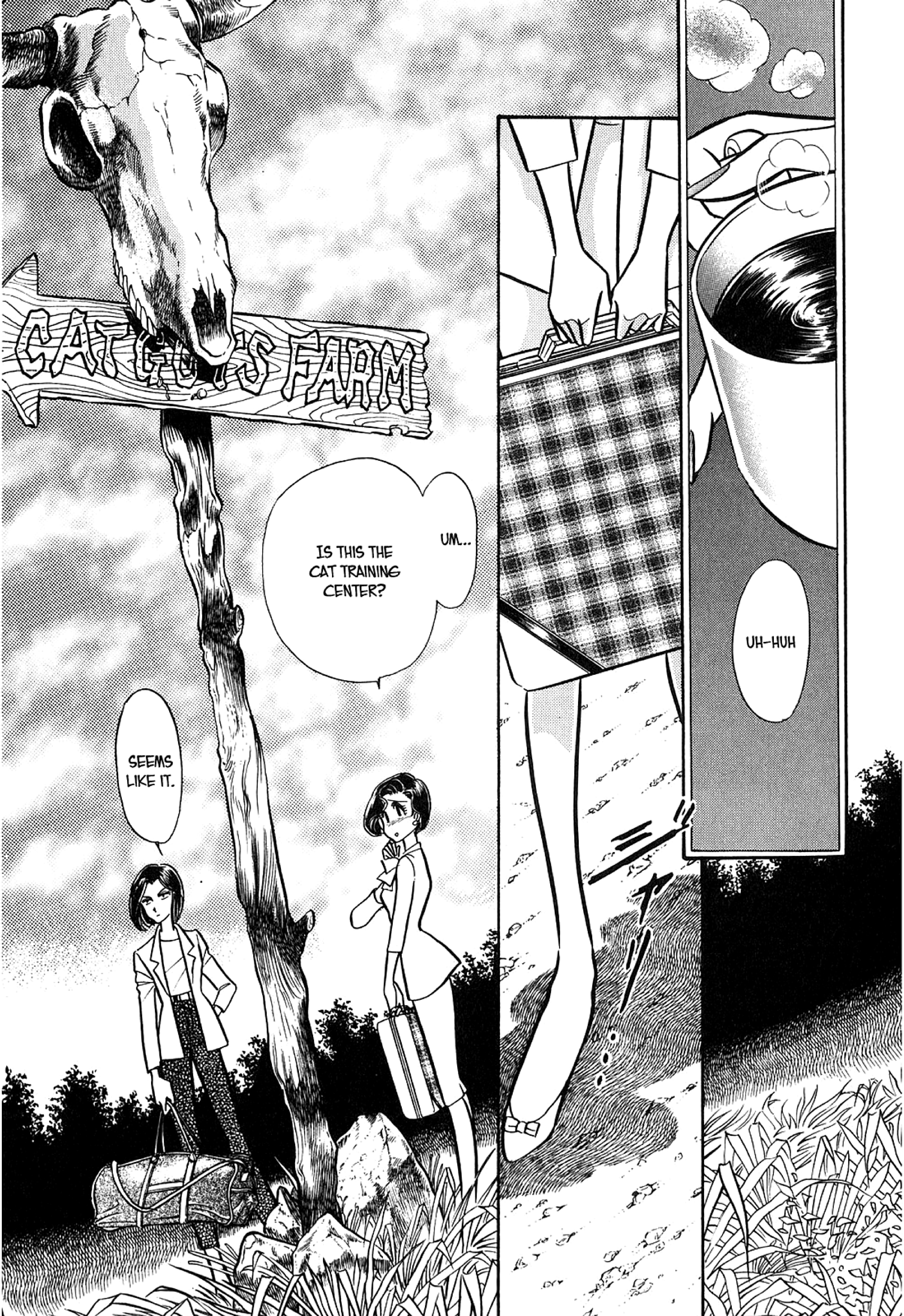
砂の薔薇
デザートローズ

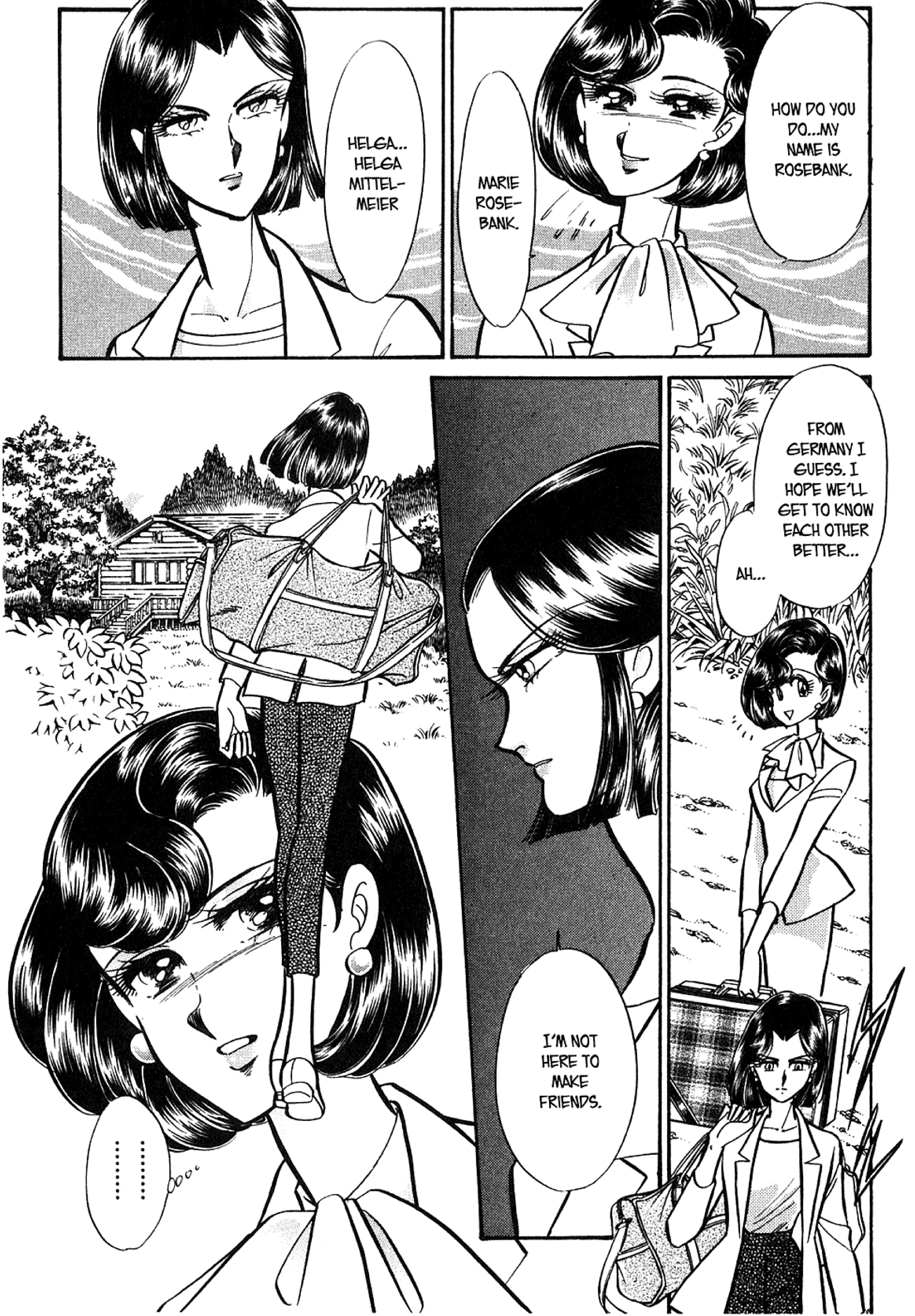
File 24: Parallel Memories (1)

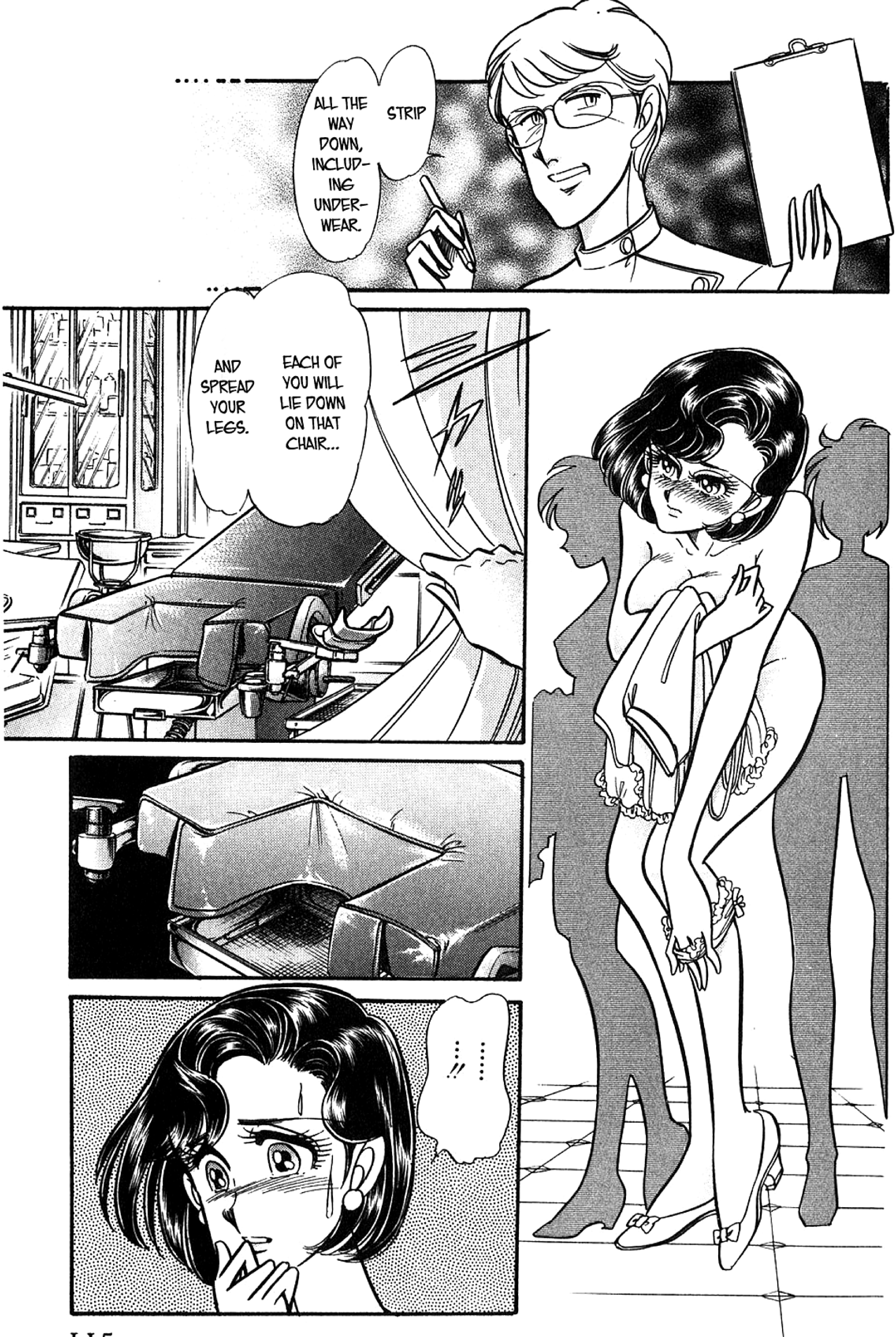

COMMANDER! SHOULD I PUT THIS BOX IN THE BEDROOM?
SURE, THAT'S FINE.
MY PLAN WAS TO GET RID OF A LOT OF STUFF AND SIMPLIFY MY LIFE.
BUT THERE'S STILL QUITE A LOT.
ONE OF THE GOOD THINGS ABOUT RENOVATING IS THAT IT LEADS TO CLEANING OUT A LOT OF STUFF.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WAS A PROBLEM FOR OTHER PEOPLE.
THE TEA IS READY.

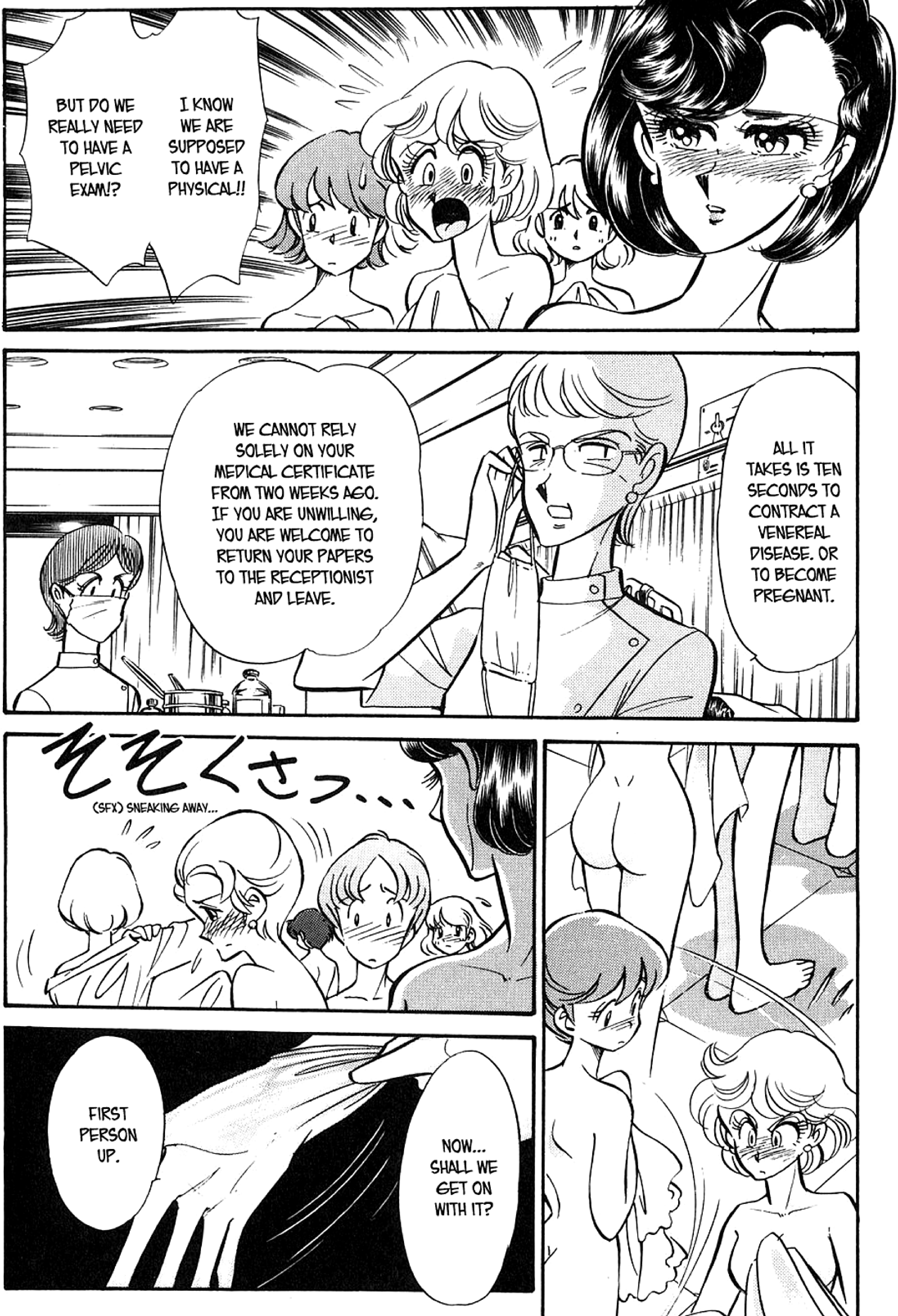

AH!!
YUM CHA
ガシャ
UH-OH. LIN BROKE IT. LIN BROKE IT.
I'M SO SORRY, COMMANDER.
DON'T WORRY. IT WAS ALREADY BROKEN. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.

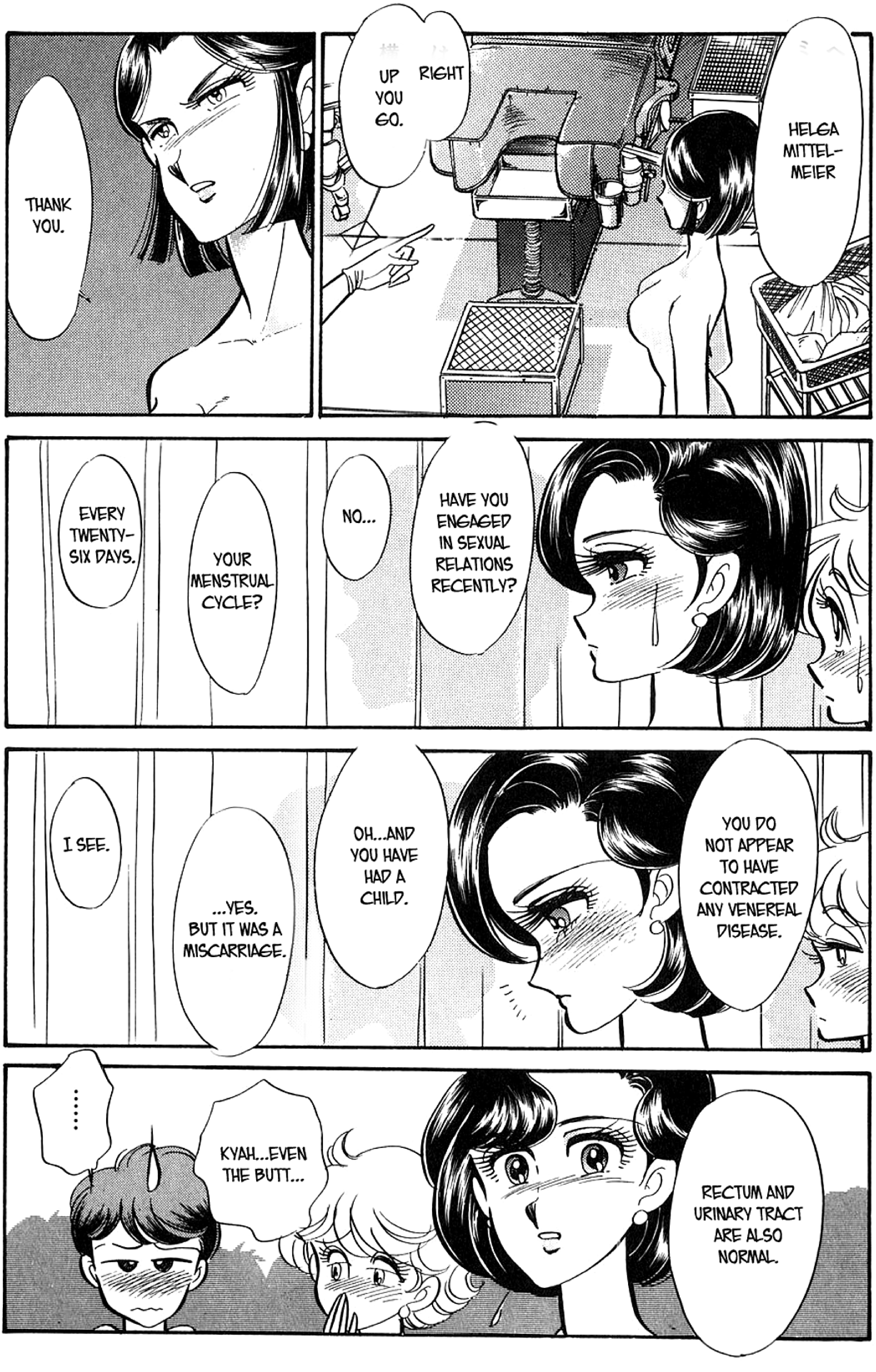

YOU STILL... HAVE THAT...
UH-HUH
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
FU FU
HEY, NO FAIR.
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU TWO ARE LEAVING US OUT.
HUH?
I REMEMBER ...
THAT TIME.

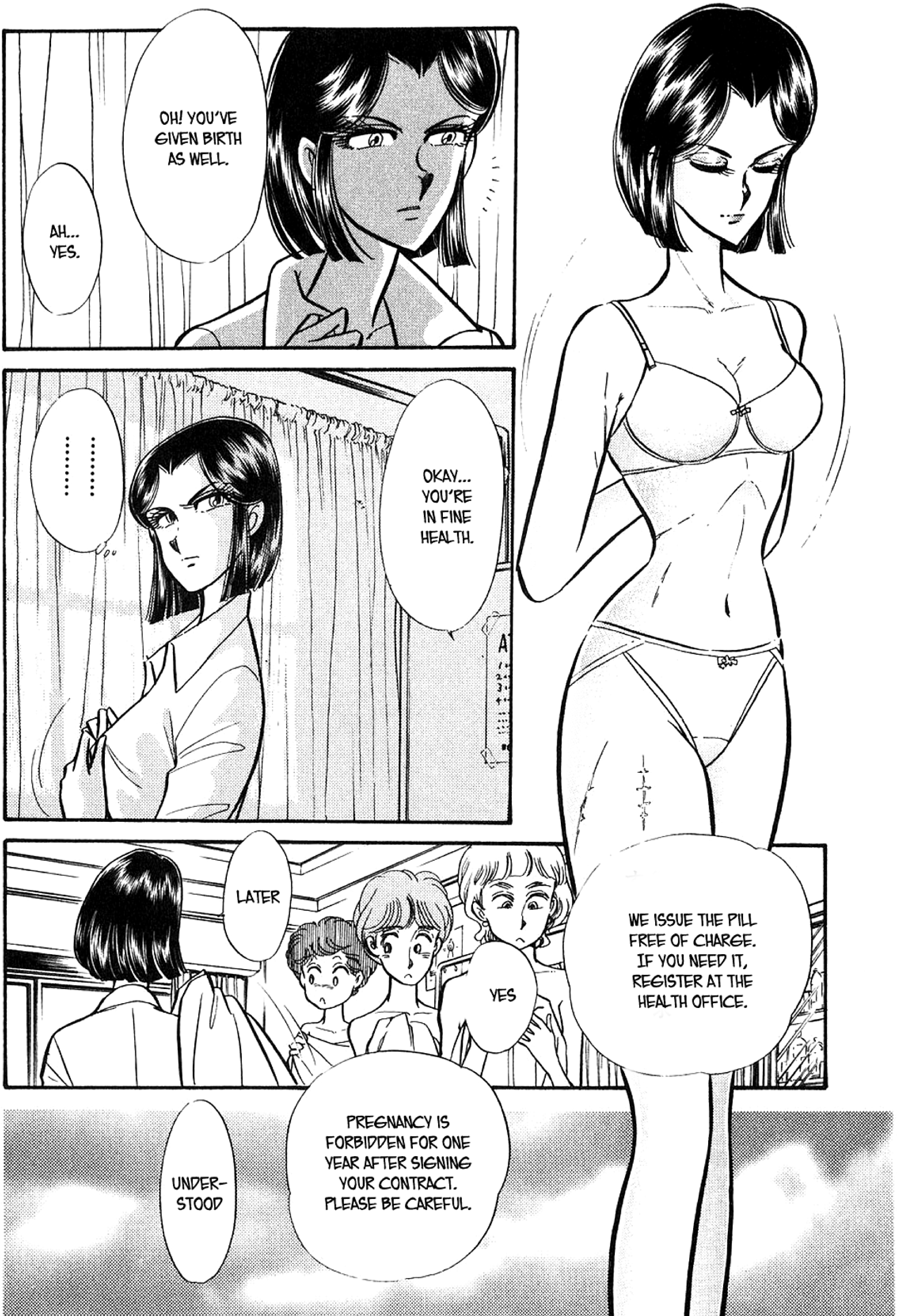

UH-HUH
ニ゛ャー…
UM...
IS THIS THE CAT TRAINING CENTER?
SEEMS LIKE IT.
CAT GU'S FARM

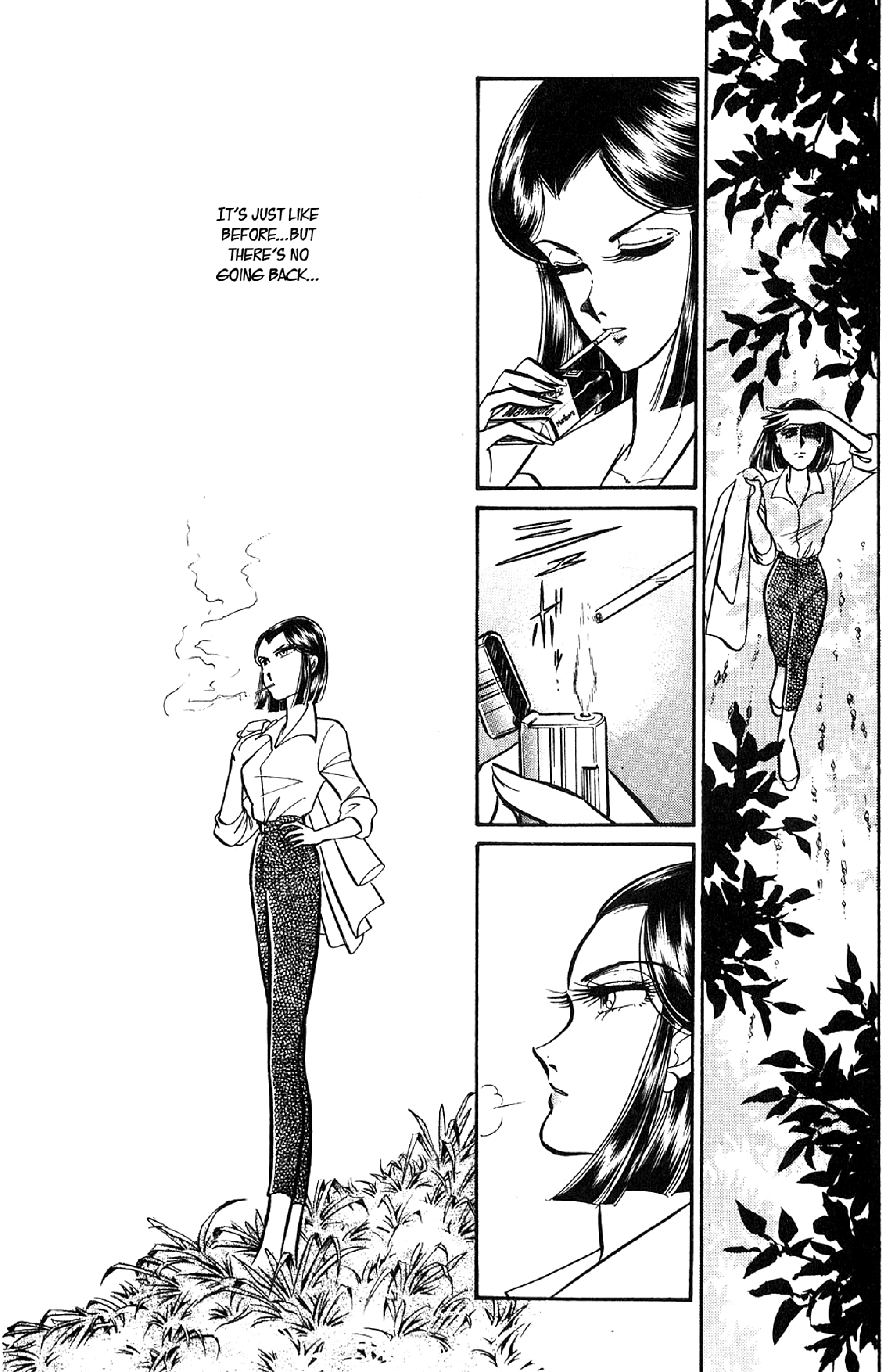

HOW DO YOU DO...MY NAME IS ROSEBANK.
MARIE ROSE-BANK.
HELGA... HELGA MITTEL-MEIER
FROM GERMANY I GUESS. I HOPE WE'LL GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER...
AH...
I'M NOT HERE TO MAKE FRIENDS.
……

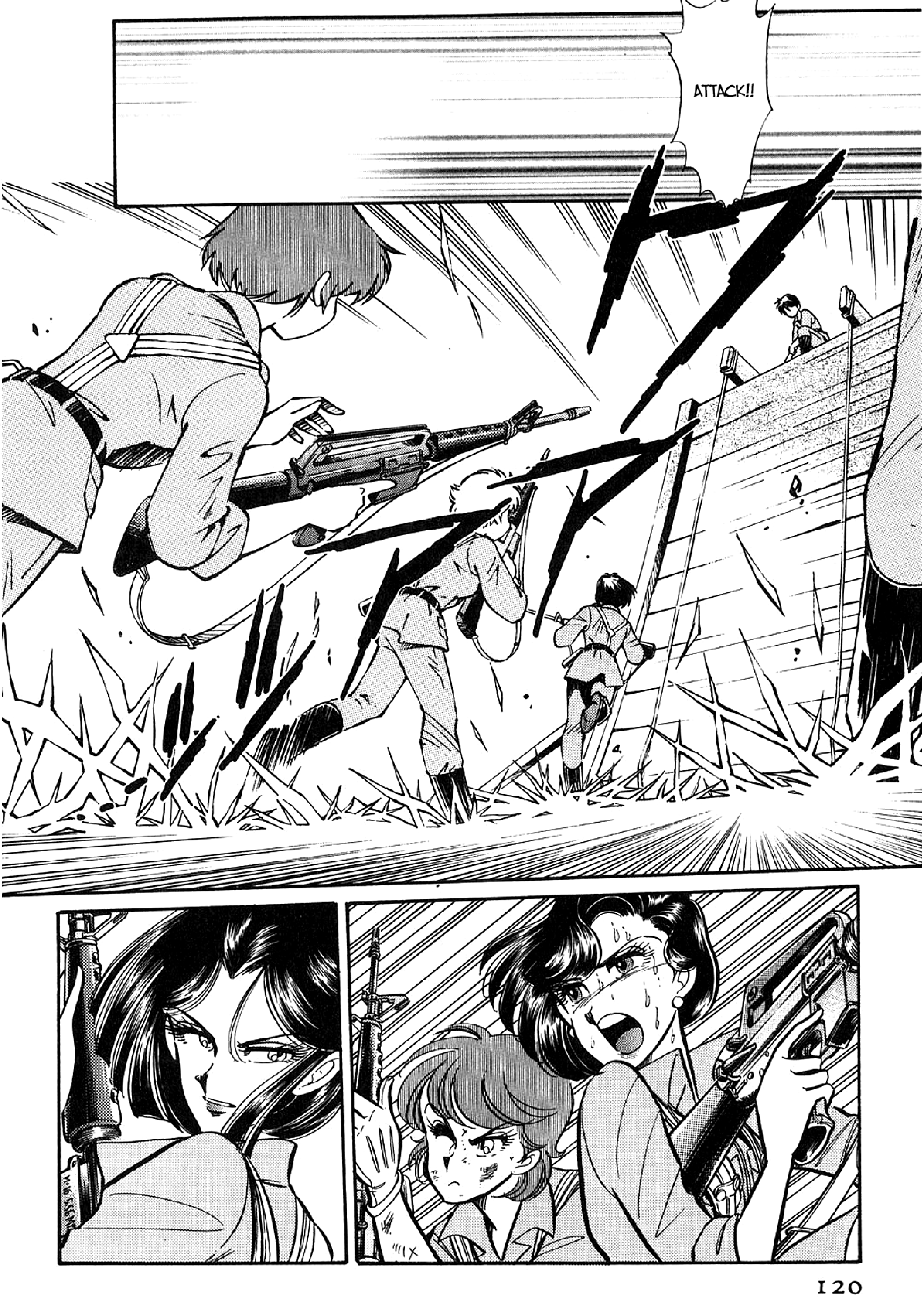

STRIP
ALL THE WAY DOWN, INCLUDING UNDERWEAR.
EACH OF YOU WILL LIE DOWN ON THAT CHAIR...
AND SPREAD YOUR LEGS.
......
...!!

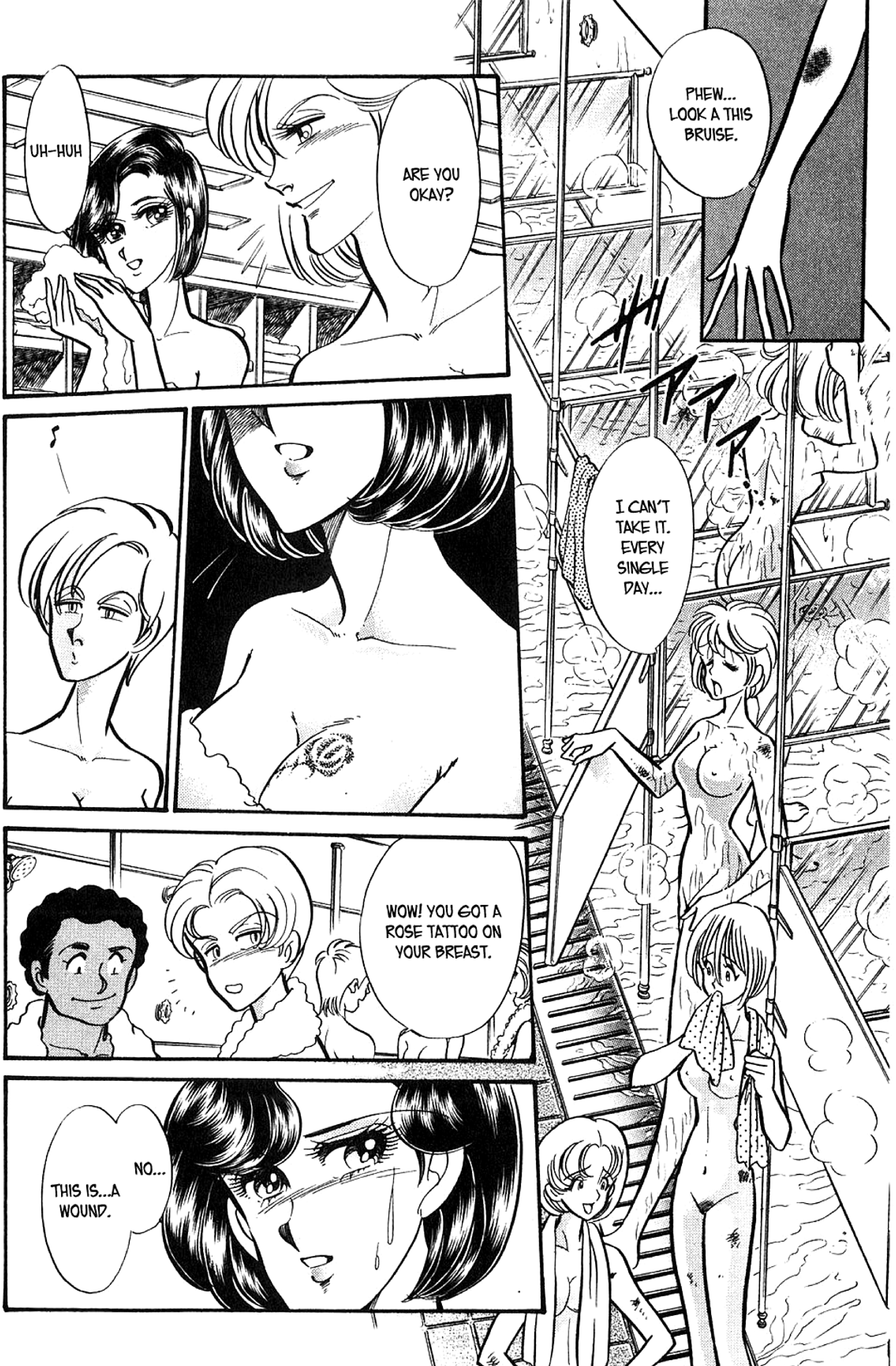

I KNOW WE ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE A PHYSICAL!!
BUT DO WE REALLY NEED TO HAVE A PELVIC EXAM!?
ALL IT TAKES IS TEN SECONDS TO CONTRACT A VENEREAL DISEASE. OR TO BECOME PREGNANT.
WE CANNOT RELY SOLELY ON YOUR MEDICAL CERTIFICATE FROM TWO WEEKS AGO. IF YOU ARE UNWILLING, YOU ARE WELCOME TO RETURN YOUR PAPERS TO THE RECEPTIONIST AND LEAVE.
そそくさっ…
(SFX) SNEAKING AWAY…
NOW… SHALL WE GET ON WITH IT?
FIRST PERSON UP.

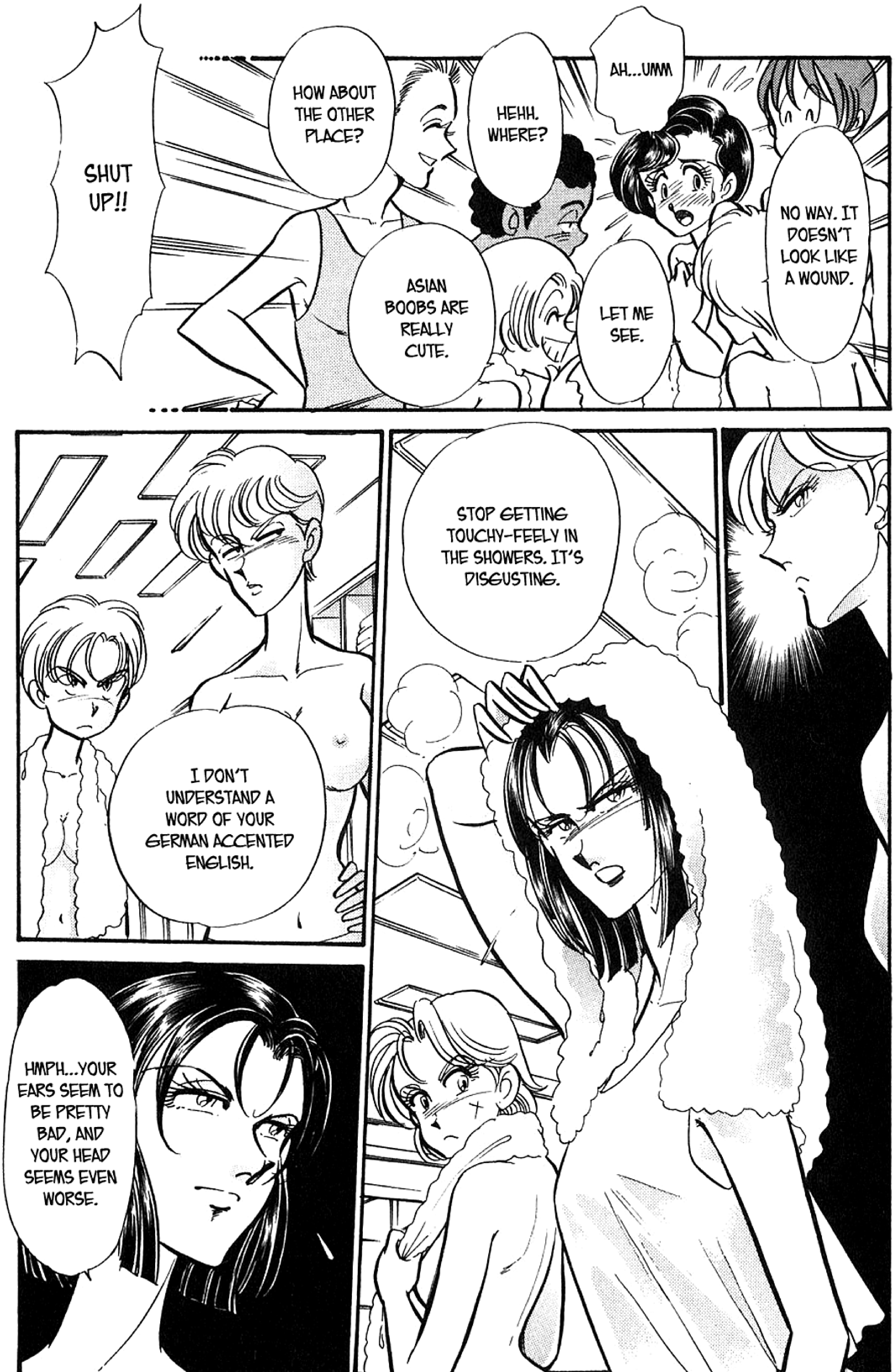

HELGA MITTEL-MEIER
RIGHT UP YOU GO.
THANK YOU.
HAVE YOU ENGAGED IN SEXUAL RELATIONS RECENTLY?
NO...
YOUR MENSTRUAL CYCLE?
EVERY TWENTY-SIX DAYS.
YOU DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE CONTRACTED ANY VENEREAL DISEASE.
OH...AND YOU HAVE HAD A CHILD.
...YES. BUT IT WAS A MISCARRIAGE.
I SEE.
RECTUM AND URINARY TRACT ARE ALSO NORMAL.
KYAH...EVEN THE BUTT...
......

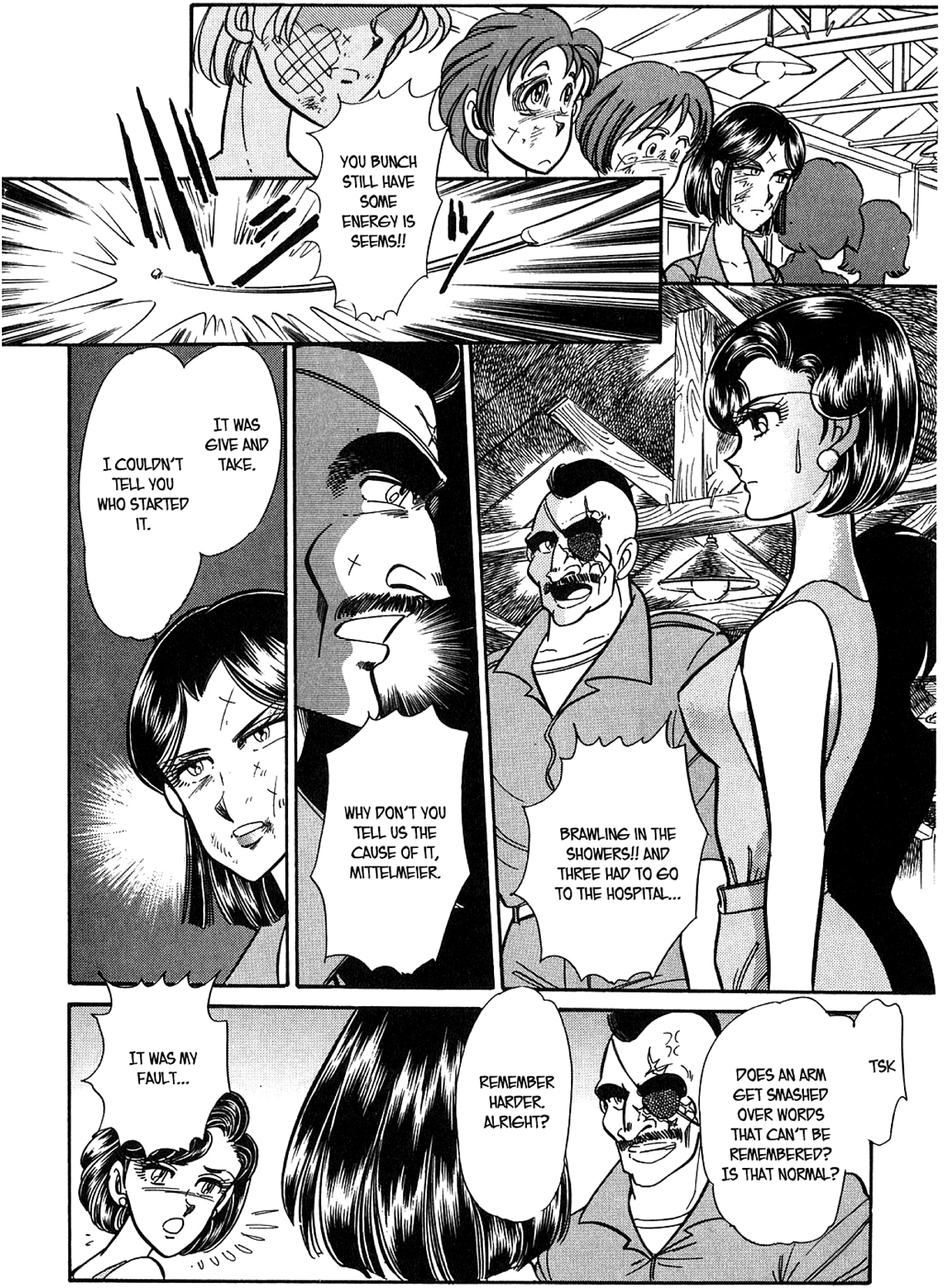

OH! YOU'VE GIVEN BIRTH AS WELL.
AH... YES.
OKAY... YOU'RE IN FINE HEALTH.
......
WE ISSUE THE PILL FREE OF CHARGE. IF YOU NEED IT, REGISTER AT THE HEALTH OFFICE.
YES
LATER
PREGNANCY IS FORBIDDEN FOR ONE YEAR AFTER SIGNING YOUR CONTRACT. PLEASE BE CAREFUL.
UNDERSTOOD

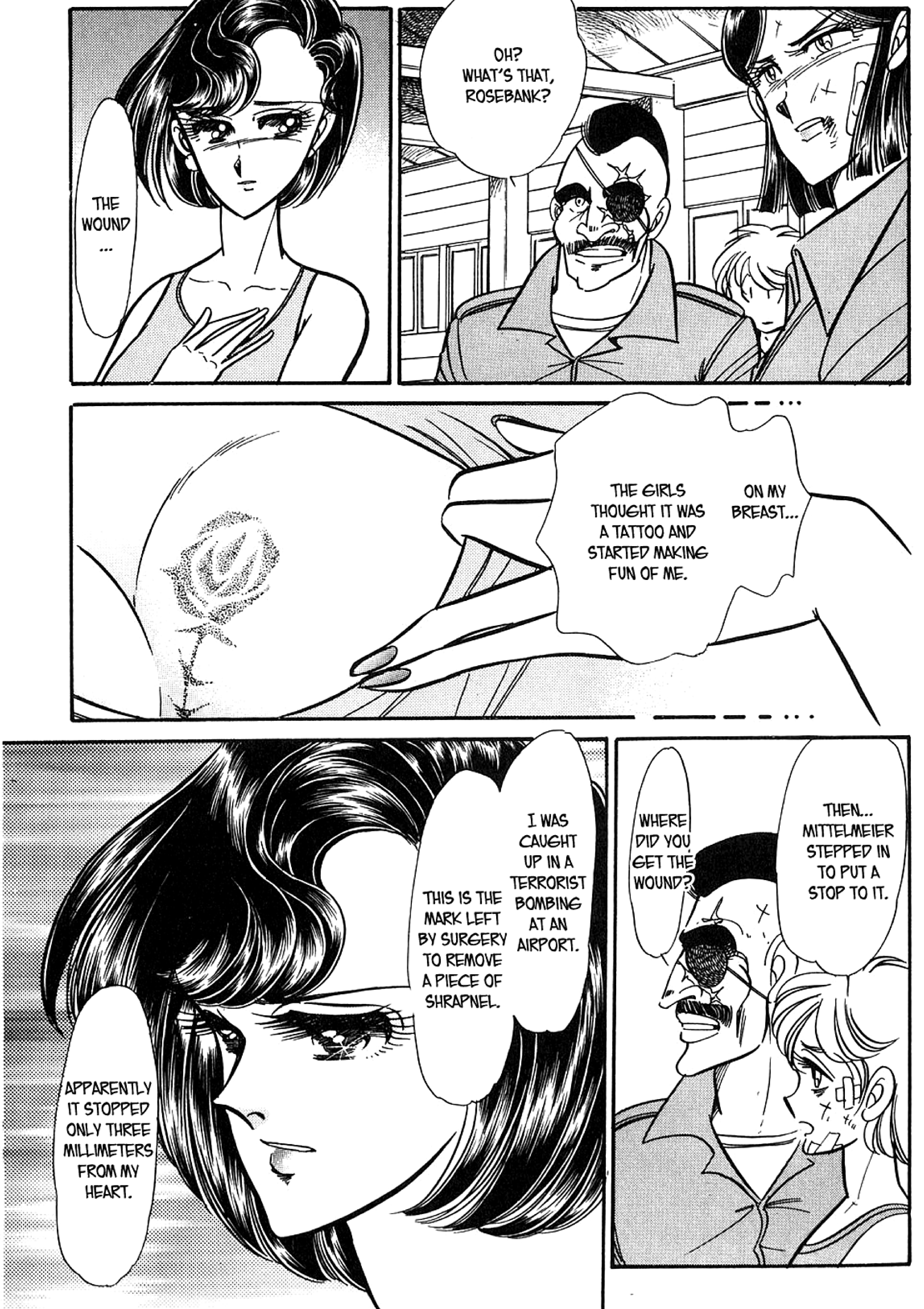

IT'S JUST LIKE BEFORE...BUT THERE'S NO GOING BACK...

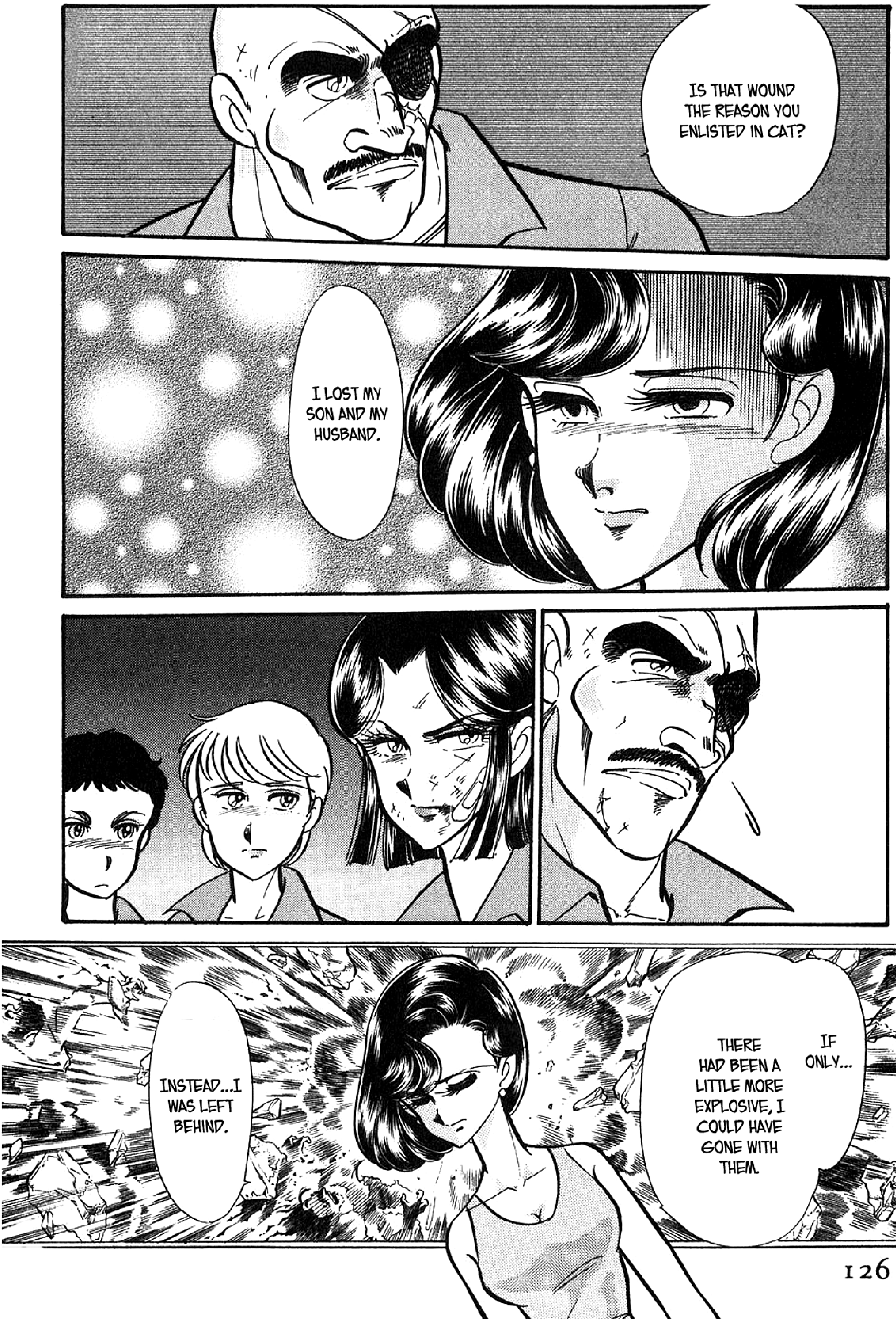

ATTACK!!
ドァアッ

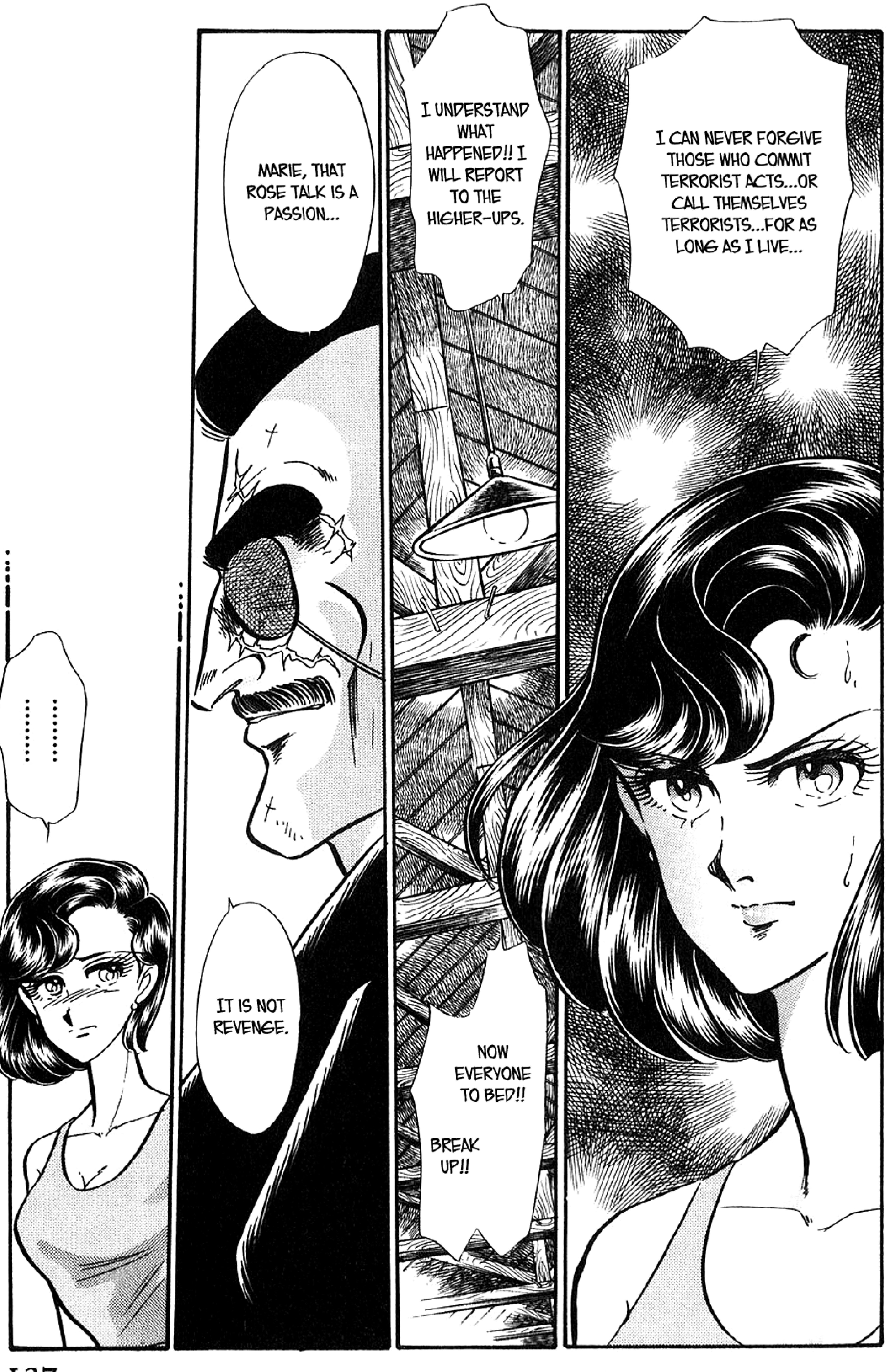

PHEW... LOOK A THIS BRUISE.
I CAN'T TAKE IT. EVERY SINGLE DAY...
ARE YOU OKAY?
UH-HUH
WOW! YOU GOT A ROSE TATTOO ON YOUR BREAST.
NO...
THIS IS...A WOUND.

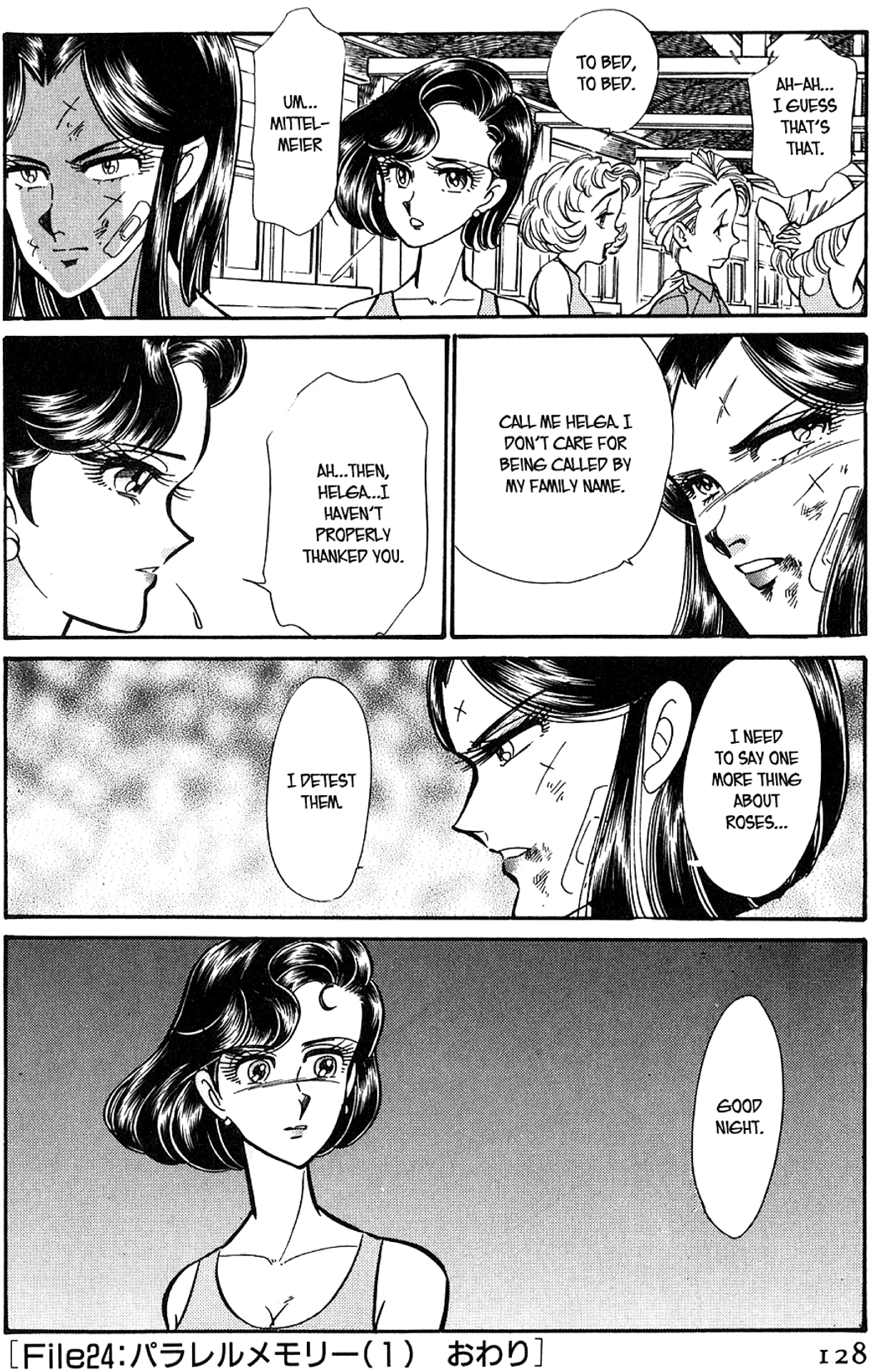

AH...UMM
HEHH. WHERE?
HOW ABOUT THE OTHER PLACE?
NO WAY. IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A WOUND.
LET ME SEE.
ASIAN BOOBS ARE REALLY CUTE.
SHUT UP!!
STOP GETTING TOUCHY-FEELY IN THE SHOWERS. IT'S DISGUSTING.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND A WORD OF YOUR GERMAN ACCENTED ENGLISH.
HMPH...YOUR EARS SEEM TO BE PRETTY BAD, AND YOUR HEAD SEEMS EVEN WORSE.


YOU BUNCH STILL HAVE SOME ENERGY IS SEEMS!!
BRAWLING IN THE SHOWERS!! AND THREE HAD TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL...
WHY DON'T YOU TELL US THE CAUSE OF IT, MITTELMEIER.
IT WAS GIVE AND TAKE.
I COULDN'T TELL YOU WHO STARTED IT.
TSK
DOES AN ARM GET SMASHED OVER WORDS THAT CAN'T BE REMEMBERED? IS THAT NORMAL?
REMEMBER HARDER. ALRIGHT?
IT WAS MY FAULT...


OH? WHAT'S THAT, ROSEBANK?
THE WOUND...
ON MY BREAST...
THE GIRLS THOUGHT IT WAS A TATTOO AND STARTED MAKING FUN OF ME.
THEN... MITTELMEIER STEPPED IN TO PUT A STOP TO IT.
WHERE DID YOU GET THE WOUND?
I WAS CAUGHT UP IN A TERRORIST BOMBING AT AN AIRPORT.
THIS IS THE MARK LEFT BY SURGERY TO REMOVE A PIECE OF SHRAPNEL.
APPARENTLY IT STOPPED ONLY THREE MILLIMETERS FROM MY HEART.


IS THAT WOUND THE REASON YOU ENLISTED IN CAT?
I LOST MY SON AND MY HUSBAND.
IF ONLY...
THERE HAD BEEN A LITTLE MORE EXPLOSIVE, I COULD HAVE GONE WITH THEM.
INSTEAD...I WAS LEFT BEHIND.


I CAN NEVER FORGIVE THOSE WHO COMMIT TERRORIST ACTS...OR CALL THEMSELVES TERRORISTS...FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE...
I UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED!! I WILL REPORT TO THE HIGHER-UPS.
NOW EVERYONE TO BED!!
BREAK UP!!
MARIE, THAT ROSE TALK IS A PASSION...
IT IS NOT REVENGE.
......
......

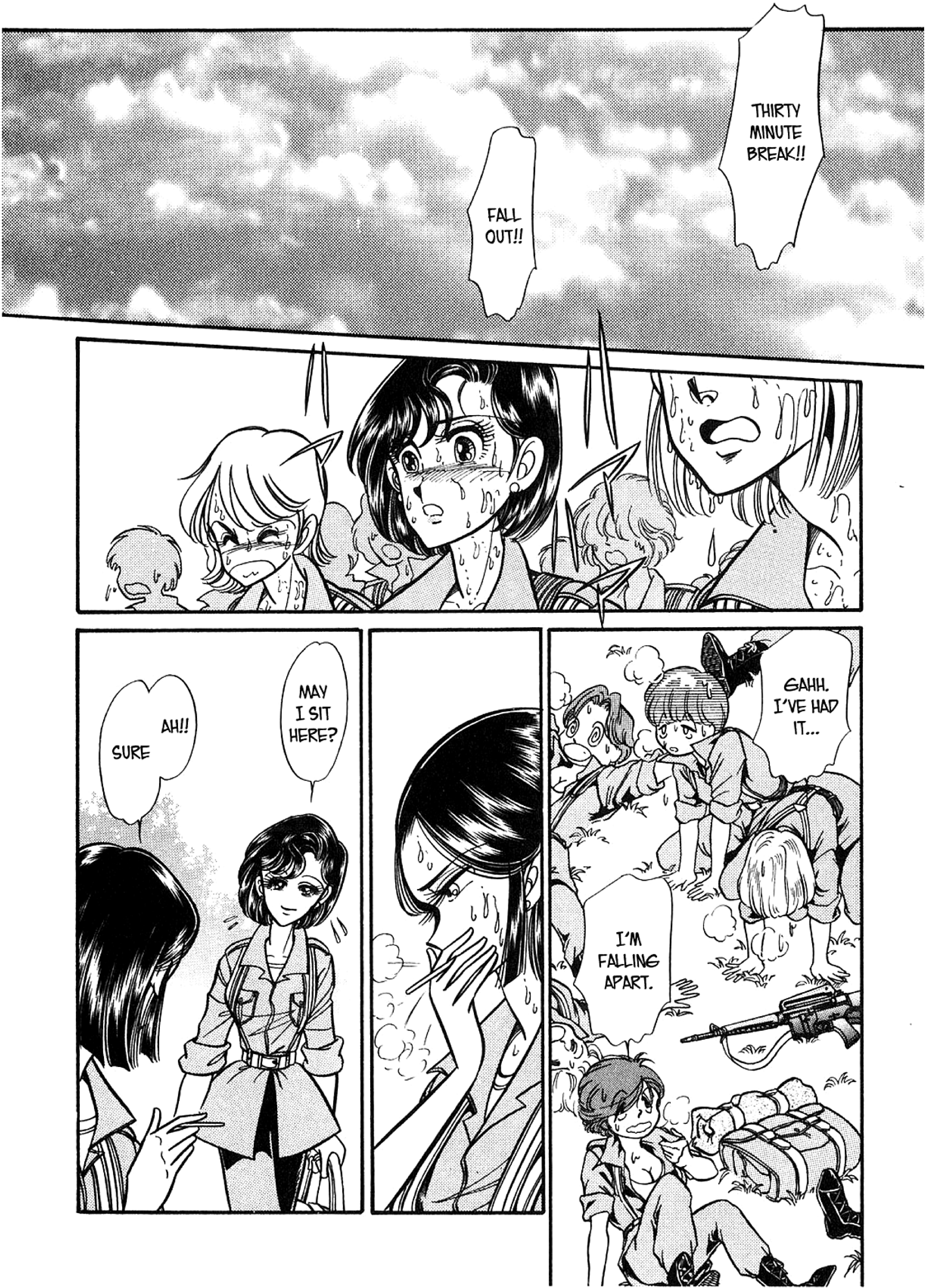

AH-AH... I GUESS THAT'S THAT.
TO BED, TO BED.
UM... MITTEL-MEIER
CALL ME HELGA. I DON'T CARE FOR BEING CALLED BY MY FAMILY NAME.
AH...THEN, HELGA...I HAVEN'T PROPERLY THANKED YOU.
I NEED TO SAY ONE MORE THING ABOUT ROSES...
I DETEST THEM.
GOOD NIGHT.

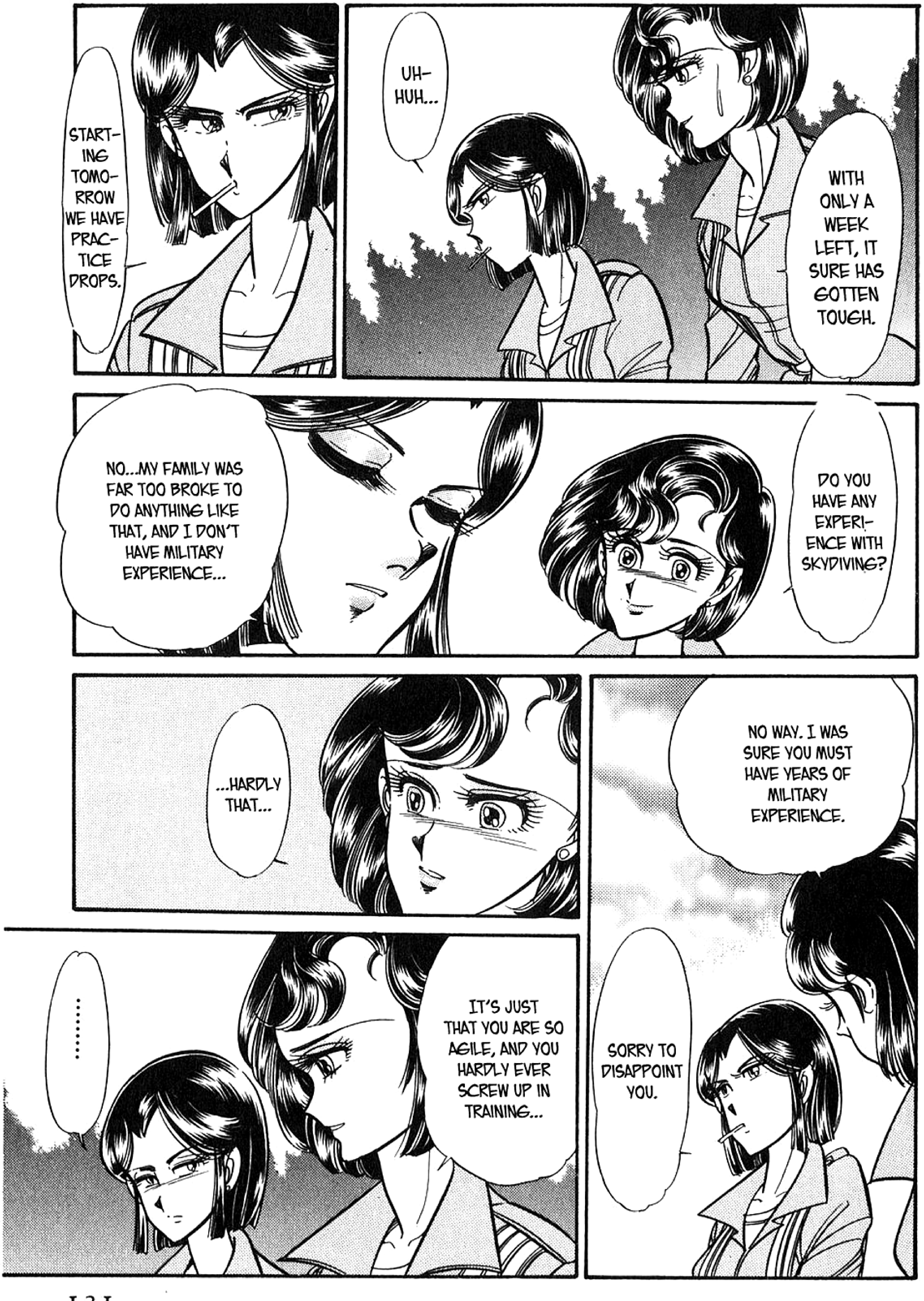
［File24：パラレルメモリー（1）　おわり］

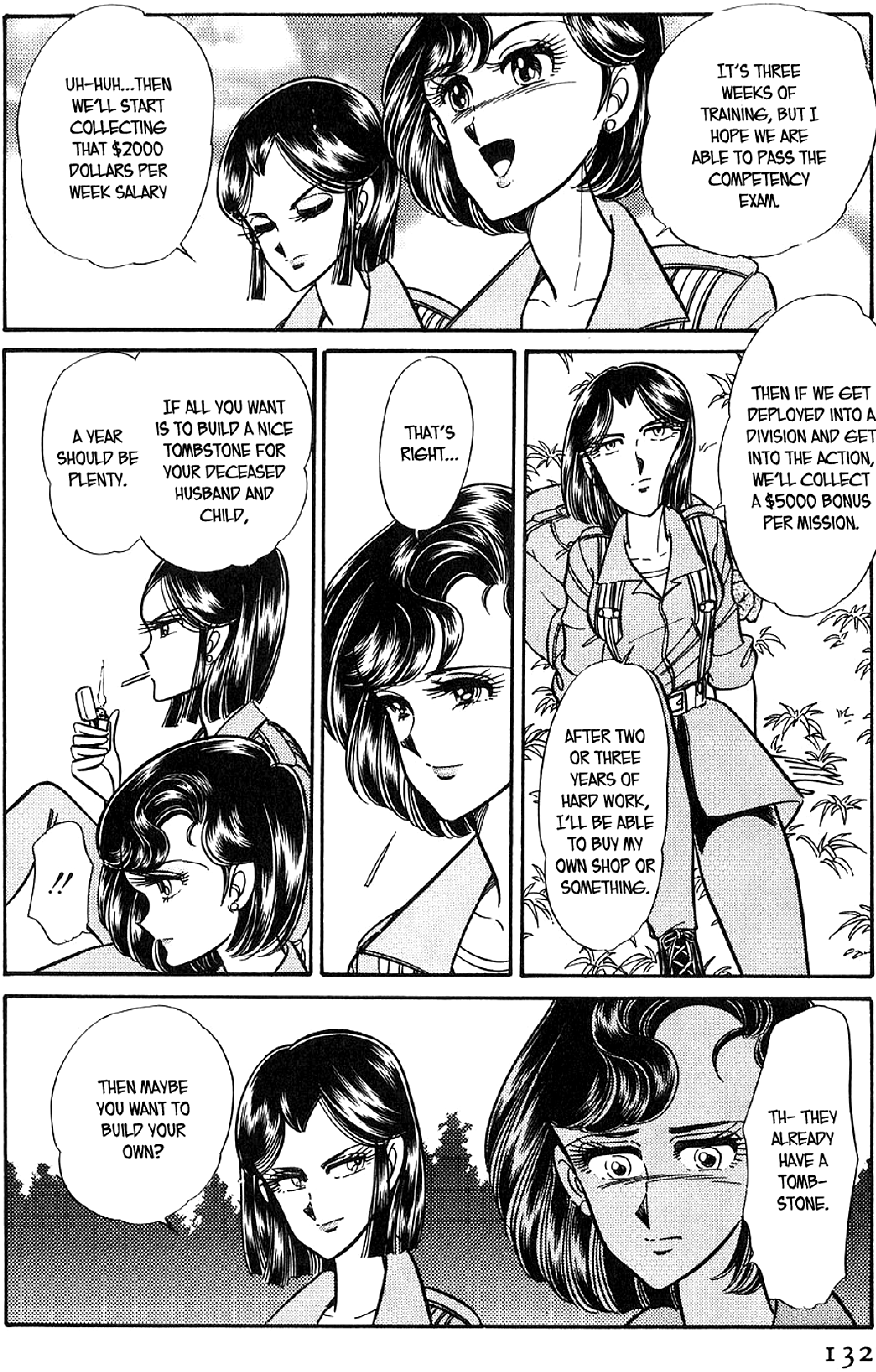
砂の薔薇

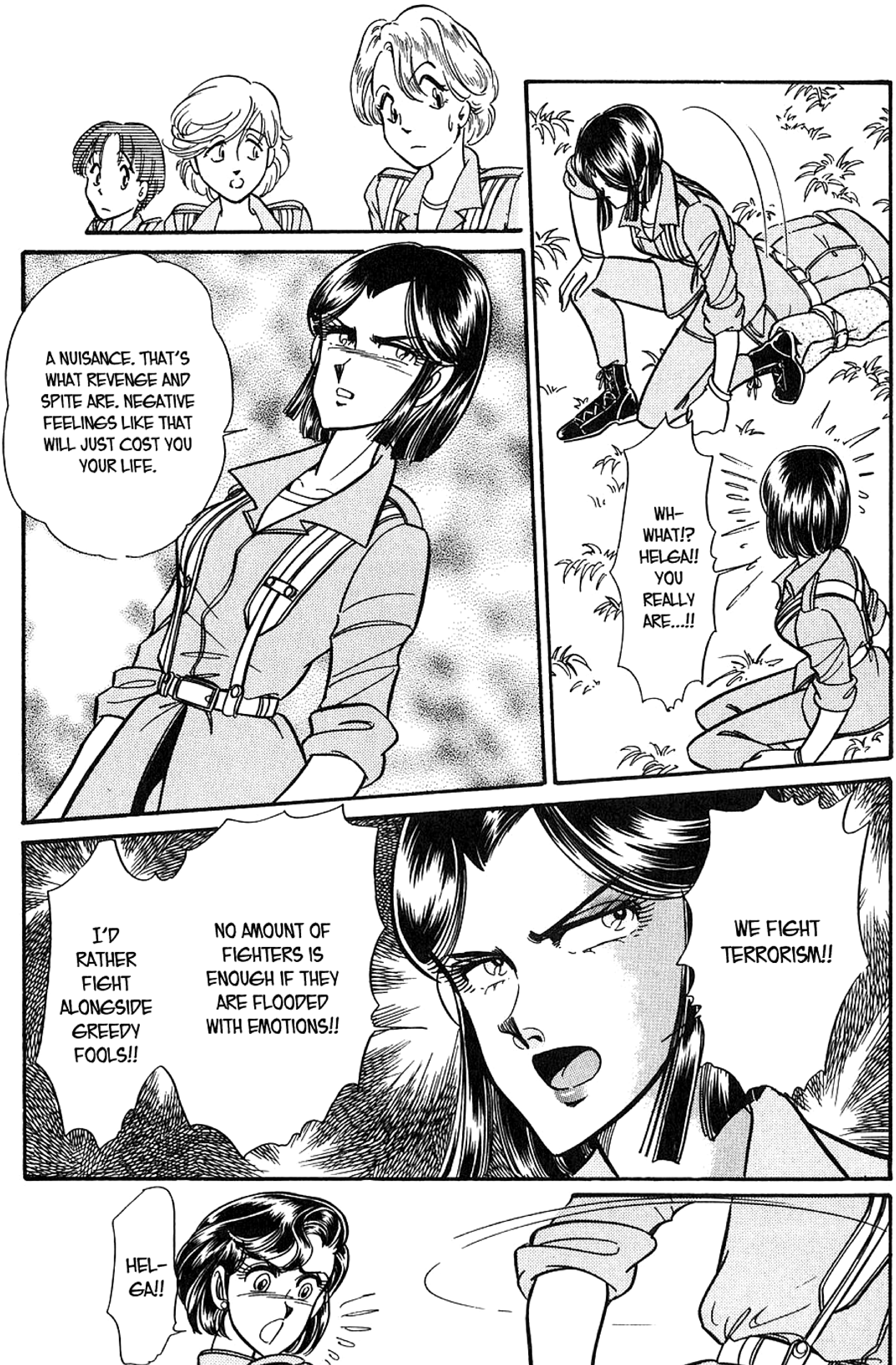
デザート・ローズ

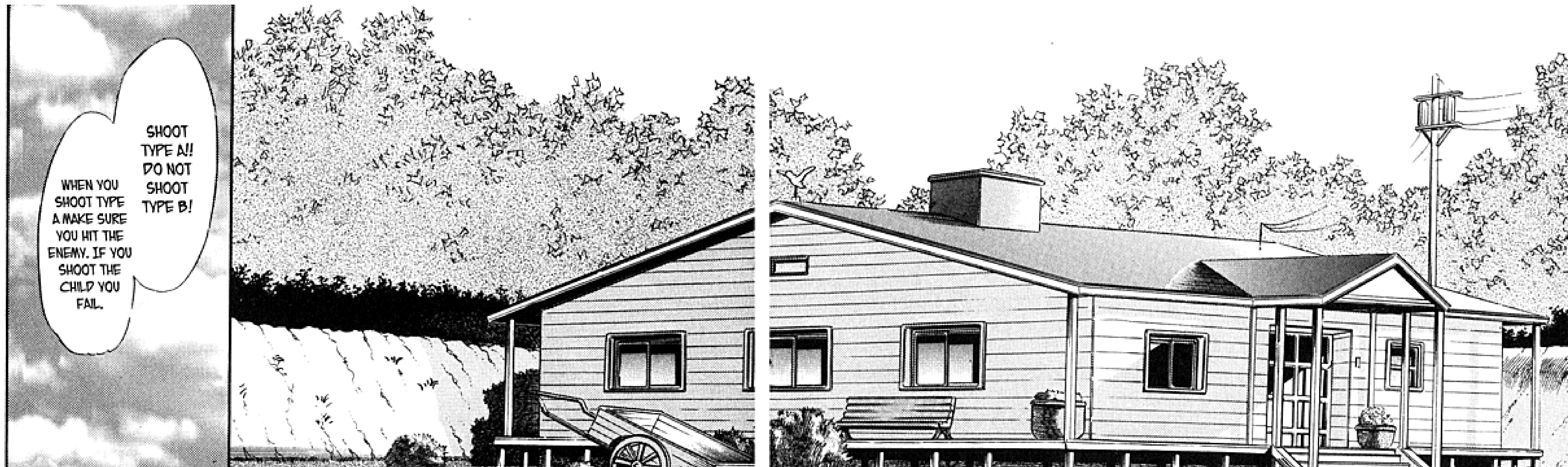
File 24: Parallel Memories (2)

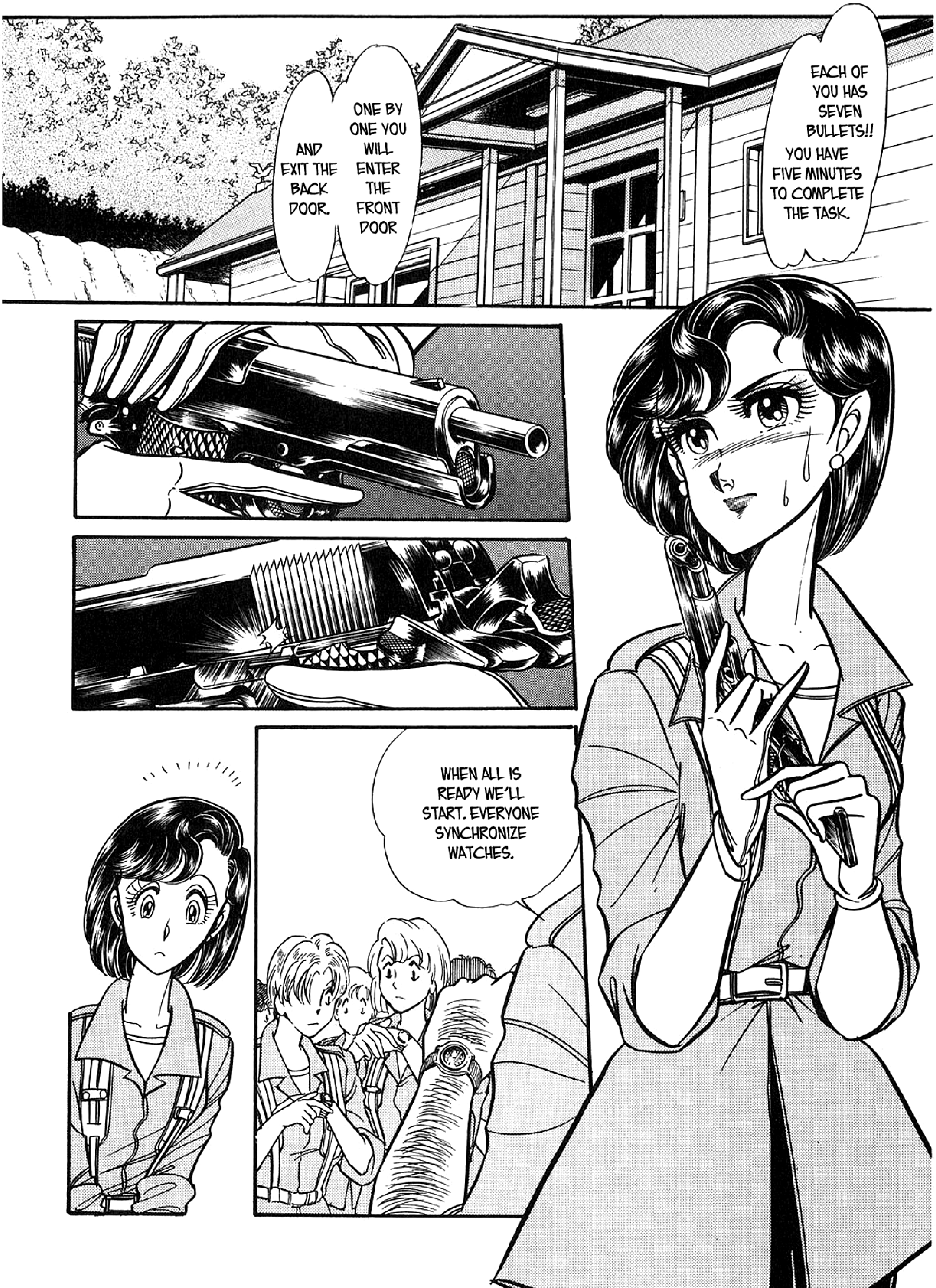

THIRTY MINUTE BREAK!!
FALL OUT!!
GAHH. I'VE HAD IT...
I'M FALLING APART.
MAY I SIT HERE?
AH!! SURE

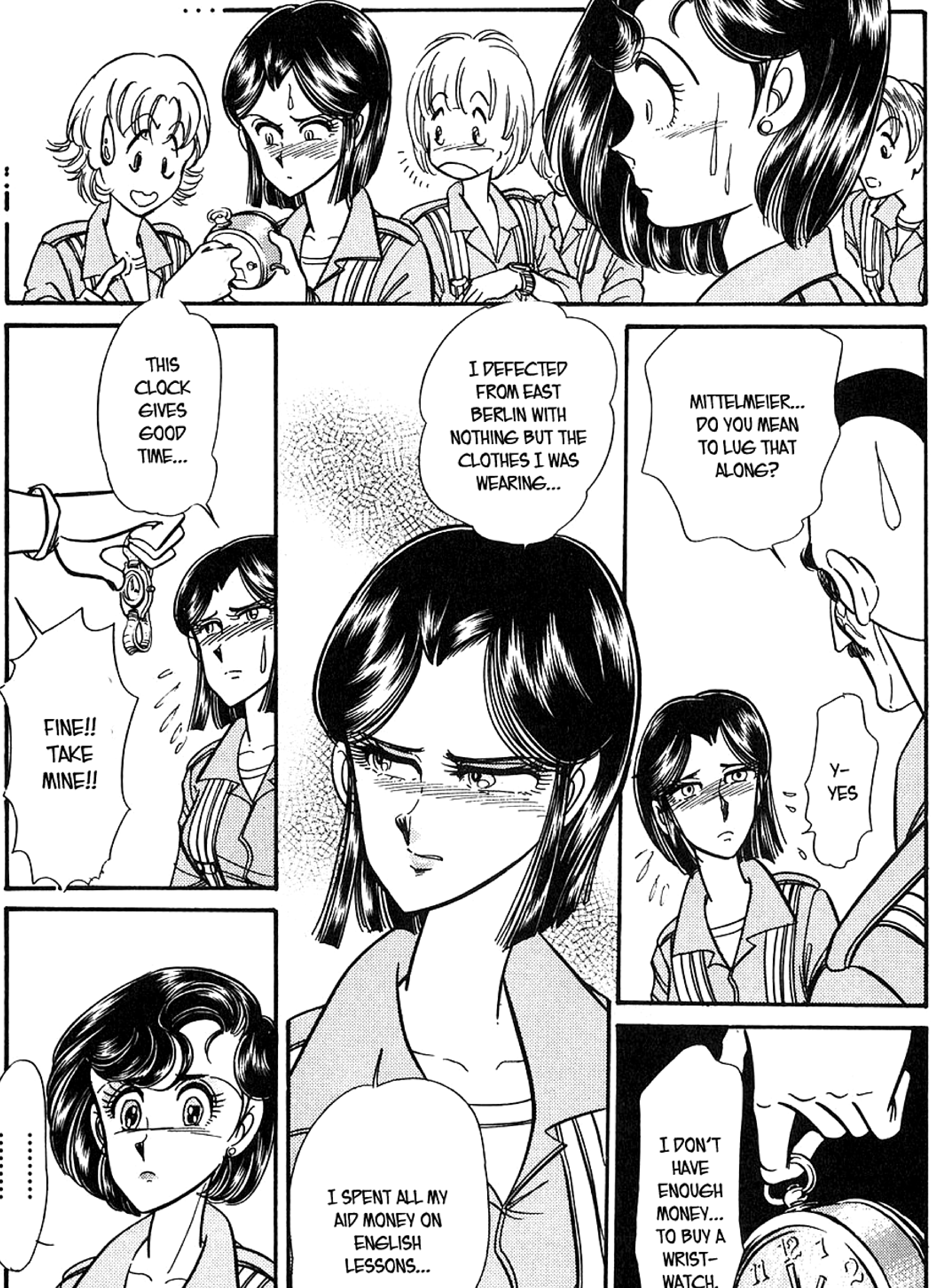

WITH ONLY A WEEK LEFT, IT SURE HAS GOTTEN TOUGH.
UH-HUH...
STARTING TOMORROW WE HAVE PRACTICE DROPS.
DO YOU HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH SKYDIVING?
NO...MY FAMILY WAS FAR TOO BROKE TO DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT, AND I DON'T HAVE MILITARY EXPERIENCE...
NO WAY. I WAS SURE YOU MUST HAVE YEARS OF MILITARY EXPERIENCE.
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU.
...HARDLY THAT...
IT'S JUST THAT YOU ARE SO AGILE, AND YOU HARDLY EVER SCREW UP IN TRAINING...
....

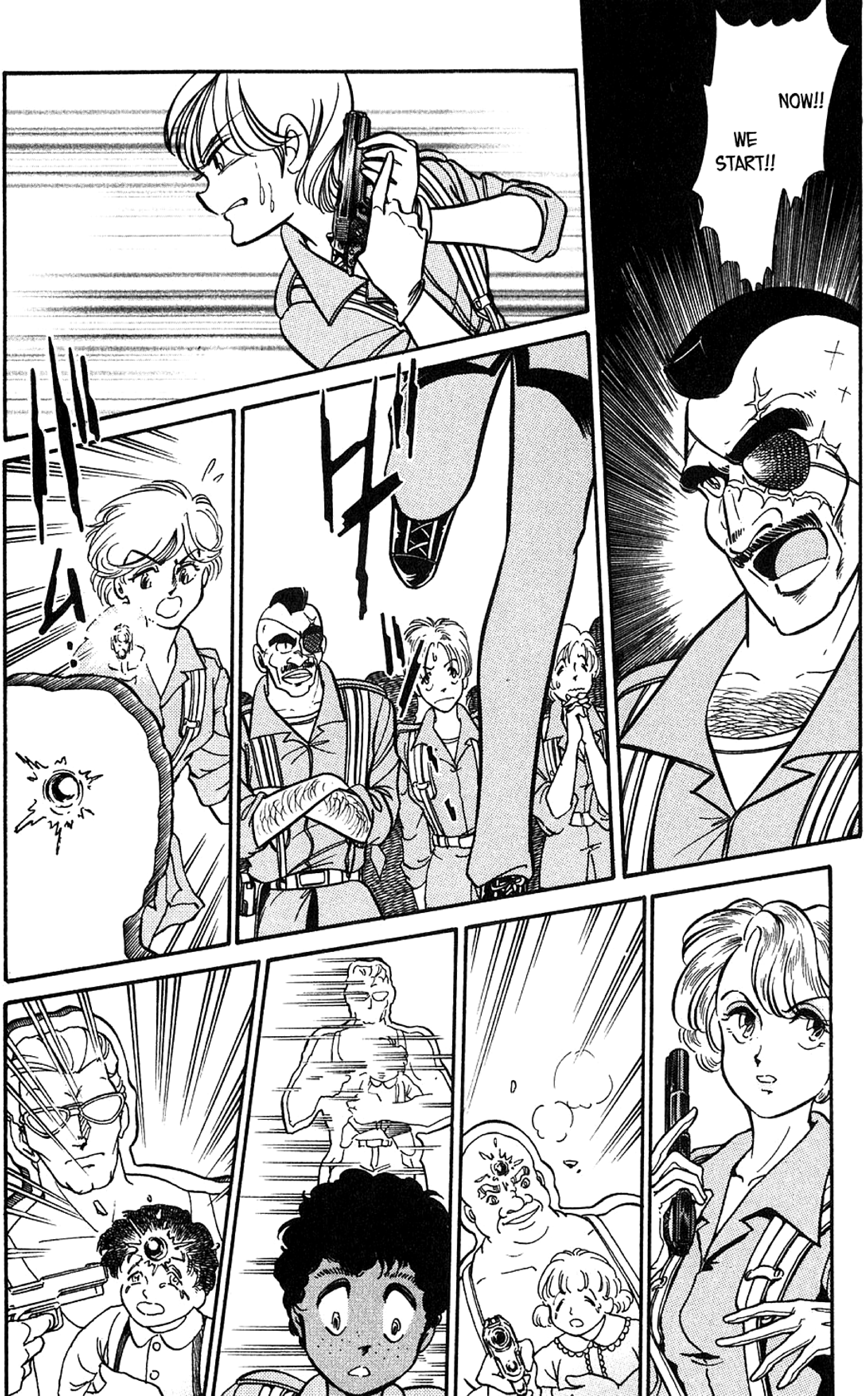

IT'S THREE WEEKS OF TRAINING, BUT I HOPE WE ARE ABLE TO PASS THE COMPETENCY EXAM.
UH-HUH...THEN WE'LL START COLLECTING THAT $2000 DOLLARS PER WEEK SALARY
THEN IF WE GET DEPLOYED INTO A DIVISION AND GET INTO THE ACTION, WE'LL COLLECT A $5000 BONUS PER MISSION.
AFTER TWO OR THREE YEARS OF HARD WORK, I'LL BE ABLE TO BUY MY OWN SHOP OR SOMETHING.
THAT'S RIGHT...
IF ALL YOU WANT IS TO BUILD A NICE TOMBSTONE FOR YOUR DECEASED HUSBAND AND CHILD,
A YEAR SHOULD BE PLENTY.
!!
TH- THEY ALREADY HAVE A TOMB-STONE.
THEN MAYBE YOU WANT TO BUILD YOUR OWN?

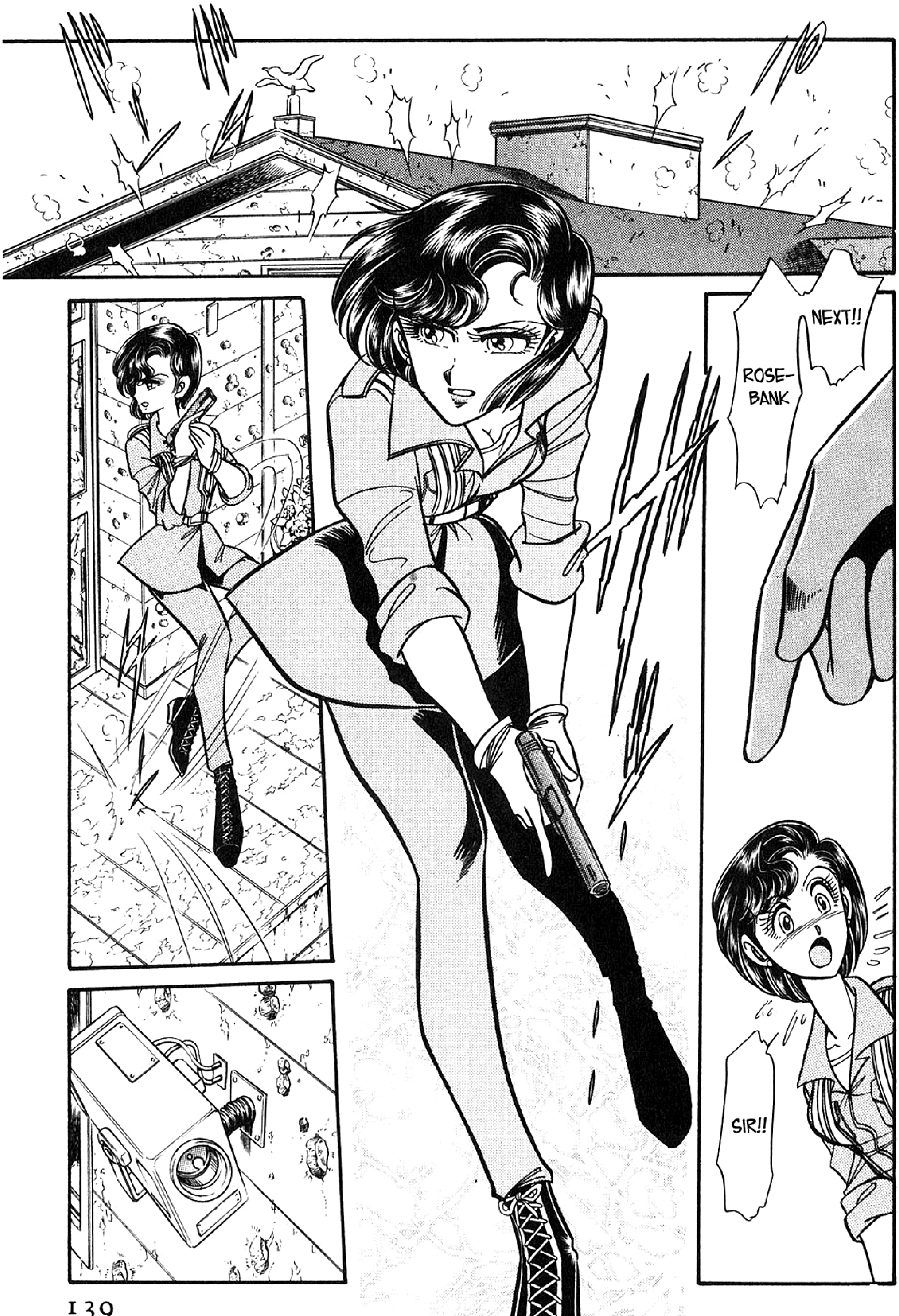

WH-WHAT!? HELGA!! YOU REALLY ARE...!!
A NUISANCE. THAT'S WHAT REVENGE AND SPITE ARE. NEGATIVE FEELINGS LIKE THAT WILL JUST COST YOU YOUR LIFE.
WE FIGHT TERRORISM!!
NO AMOUNT OF FIGHTERS IS ENOUGH IF THEY ARE FLOODED WITH EMOTIONS!!
I'D RATHER FIGHT ALONGSIDE GREEDY FOOLS!!
HELGA!!

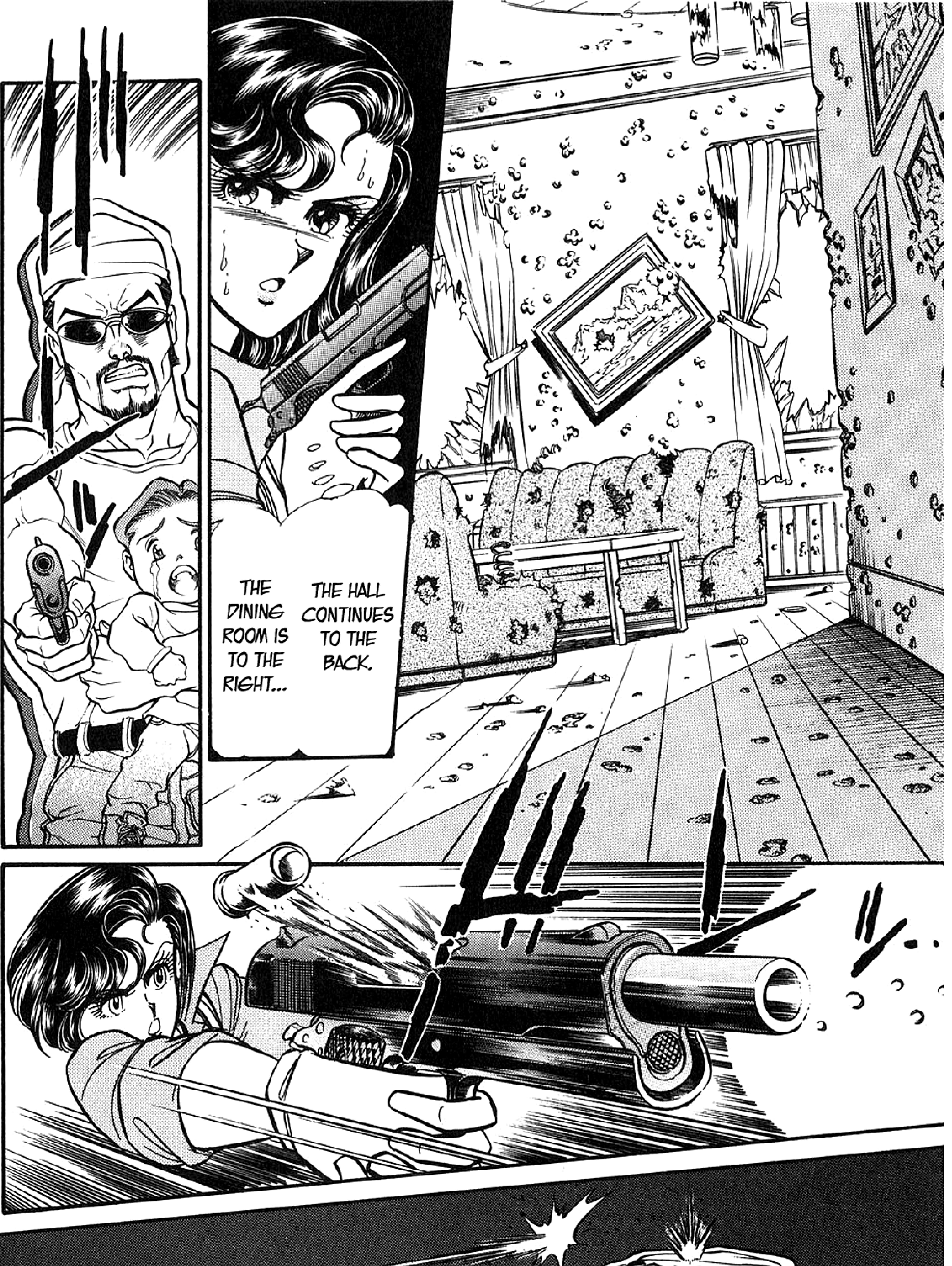

B1
B2
B3
YOUR OBJECTIVE IS THAT HOUSE. THERE ARE FIVE FOES HOLDING TWO CHILDREN HOSTAGE.
THE HOUSE IS EQUIPPED WITH TV CAMERAS SO THAT WE CAN MONITOR EVERYTHING YOU DO.
THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF TERRORIST. TYPE A IS HOLDING A CHILD WITH HIS GUN POINTED LIKE THIS.
TYPE B HAS HIS GUN POINTED THIS WAY.
SHOOT TYPE A!! DO NOT SHOOT TYPE B!
WHEN YOU SHOOT TYPE A MAKE SURE YOU HIT THE ENEMY. IF YOU SHOOT THE CHILD YOU FAIL.
YOU ALSO FAIL IF YOU SHOOT TYPE B.

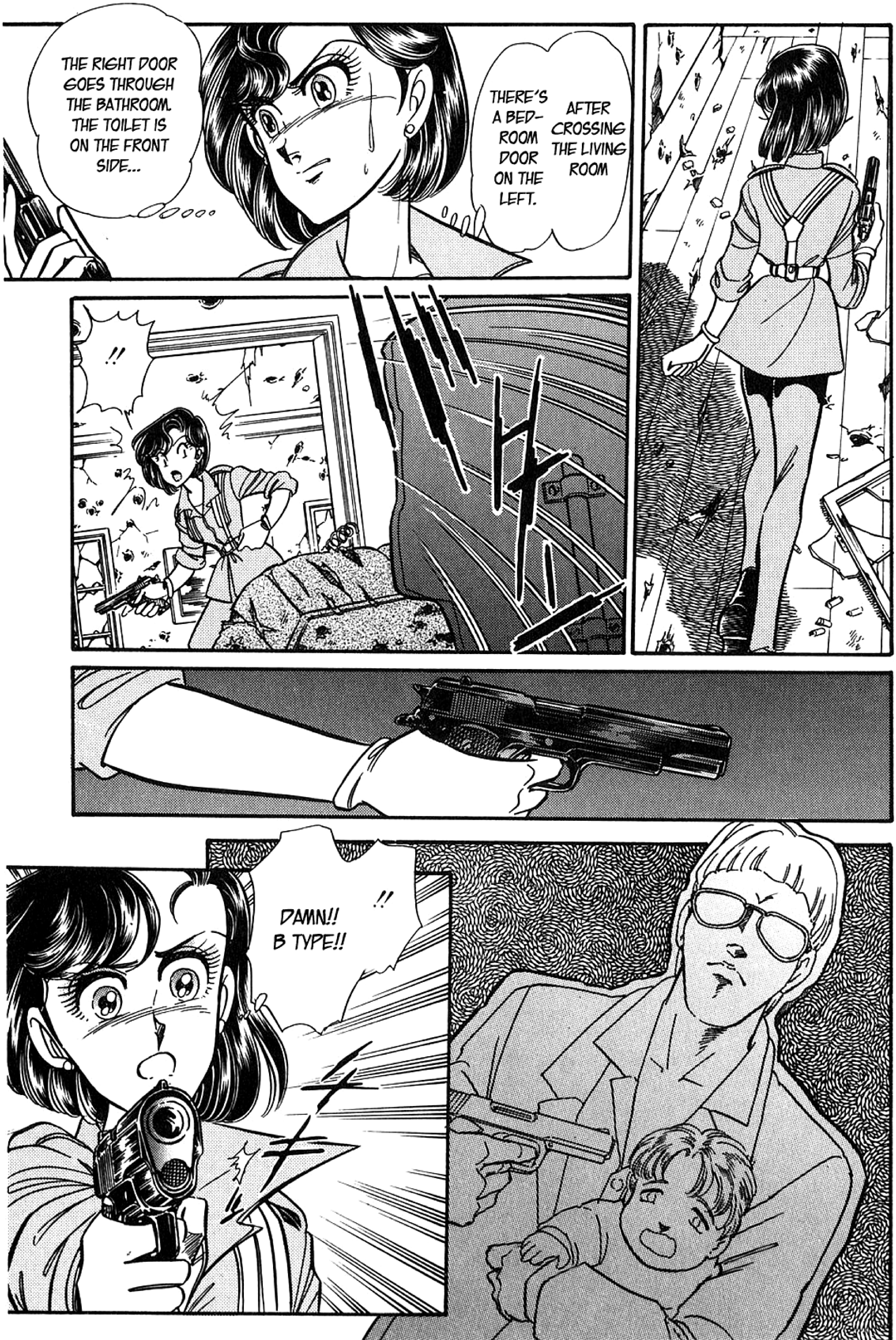

EACH OF YOU HAS SEVEN BULLETS!! YOU HAVE FIVE MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE TASK.
ONE BY ONE YOU WILL ENTER THE FRONT DOOR
AND EXIT THE BACK DOOR.
WHEN ALL IS READY WE'LL START. EVERYONE SYNCHRONIZE WATCHES.

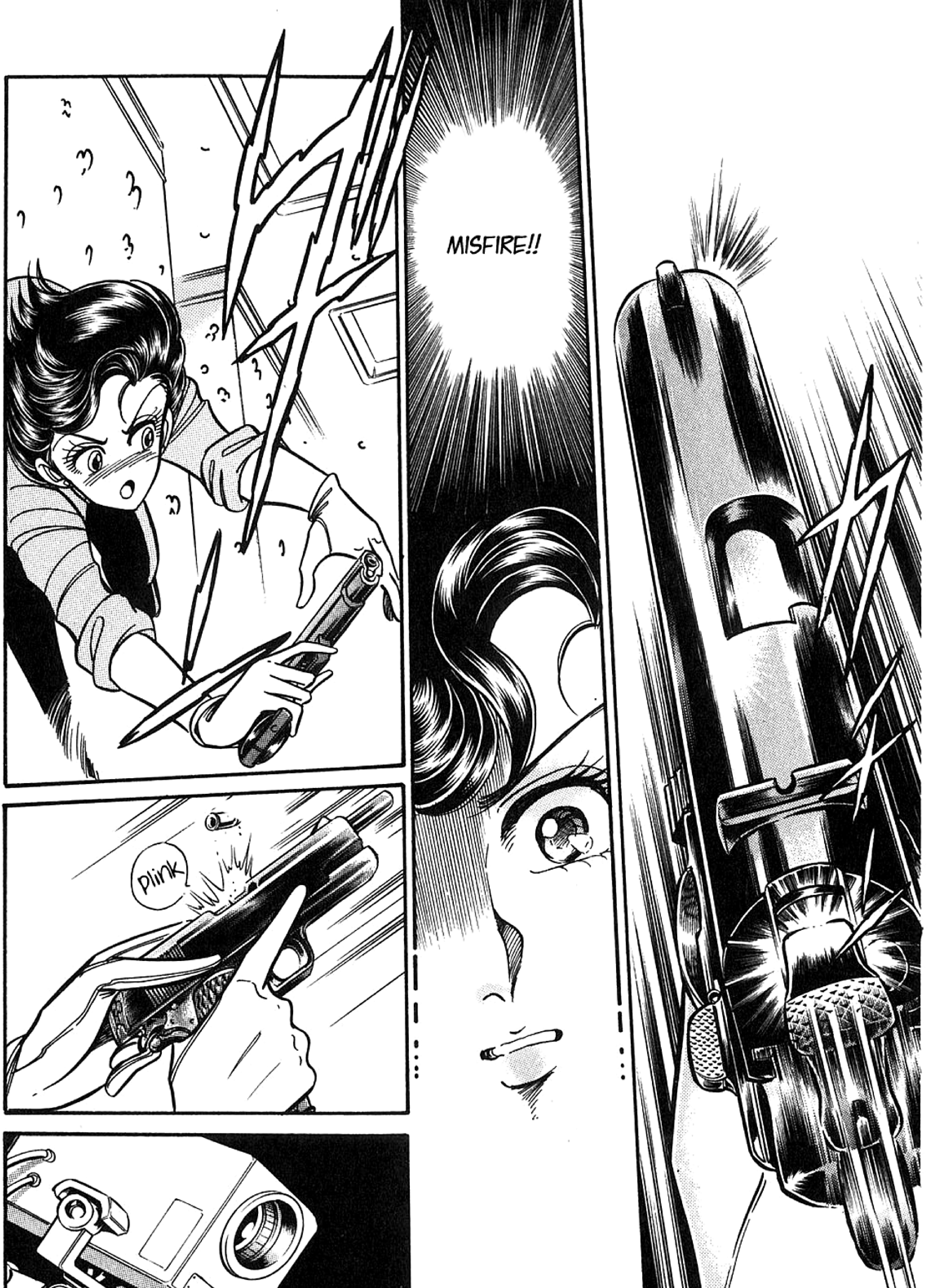

. . .
MITTELMEIER... DO YOU MEAN TO LUG THAT ALONG?
Y-YES
THIS CLOCK GIVES GOOD TIME...
FINE!! TAKE MINE!!
I DEFECTED FROM EAST BERLIN WITH NOTHING BUT THE CLOTHES I WAS WEARING...
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY... TO BUY A WRIST-WATCH.
I SPENT ALL MY AID MONEY ON ENGLISH LESSONS...
......

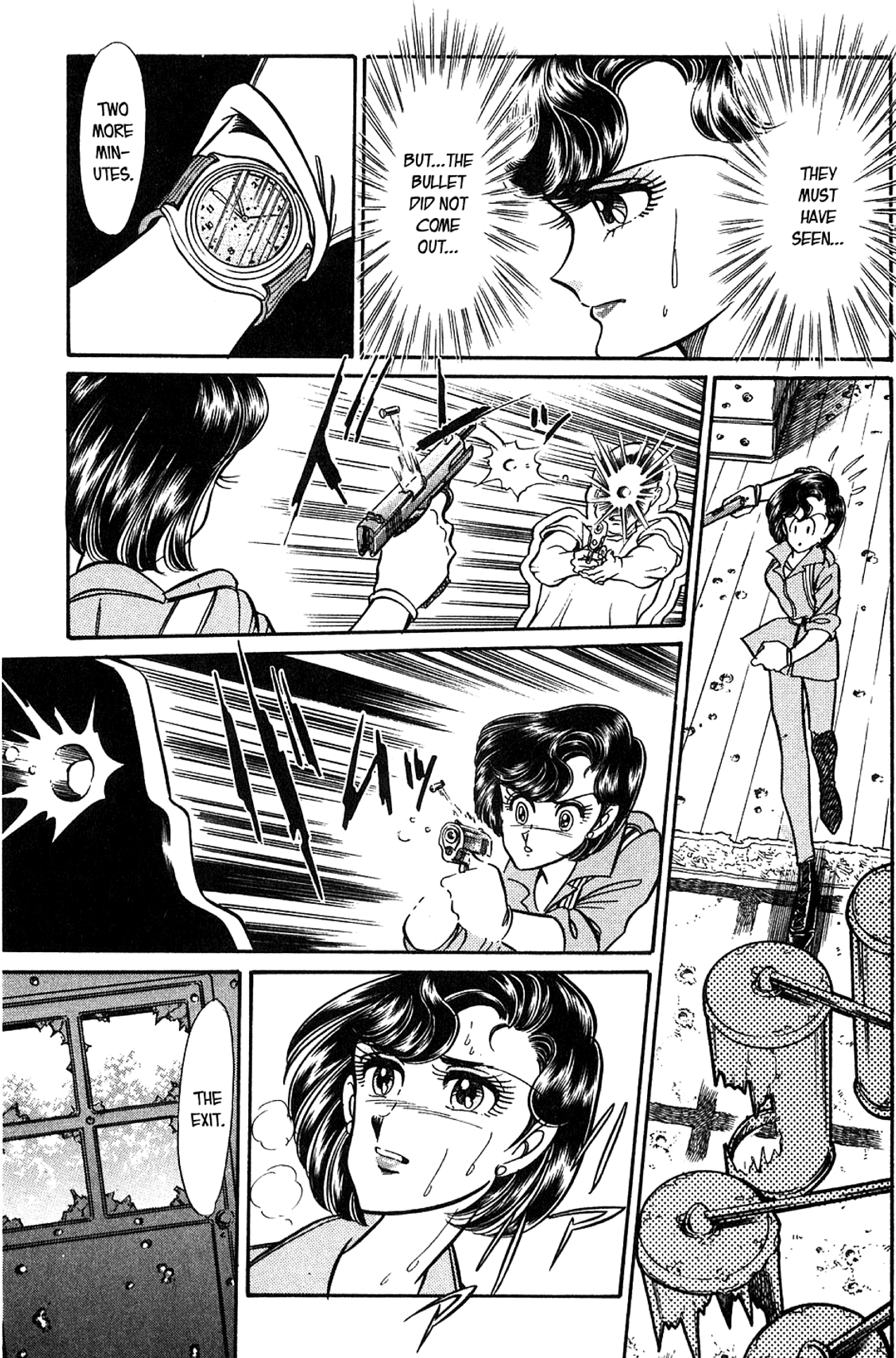

NOW!!
WE START!!
ドッ!!
ドム!!

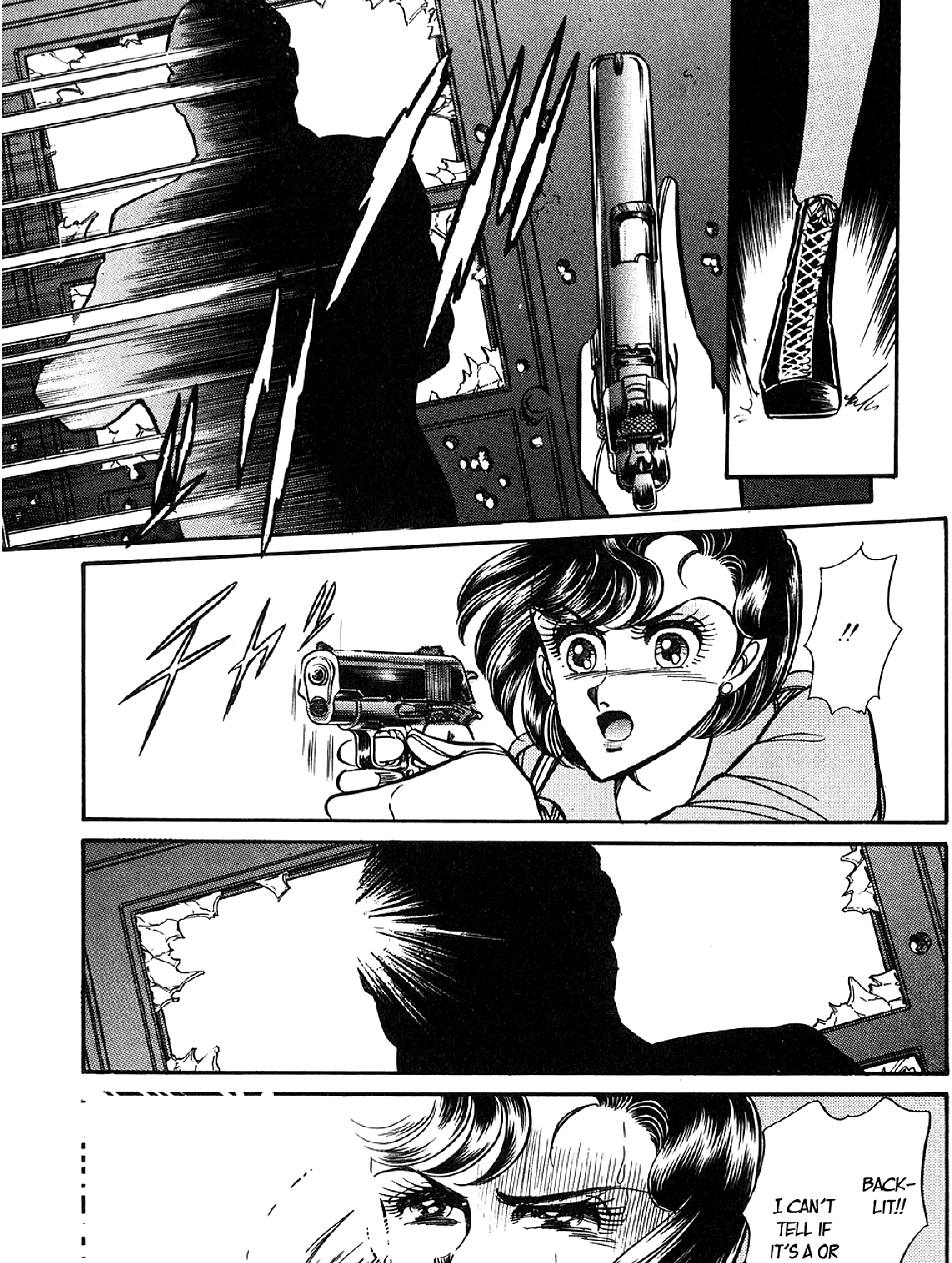

NEXT!!
ROSE-BANK
SIR!!

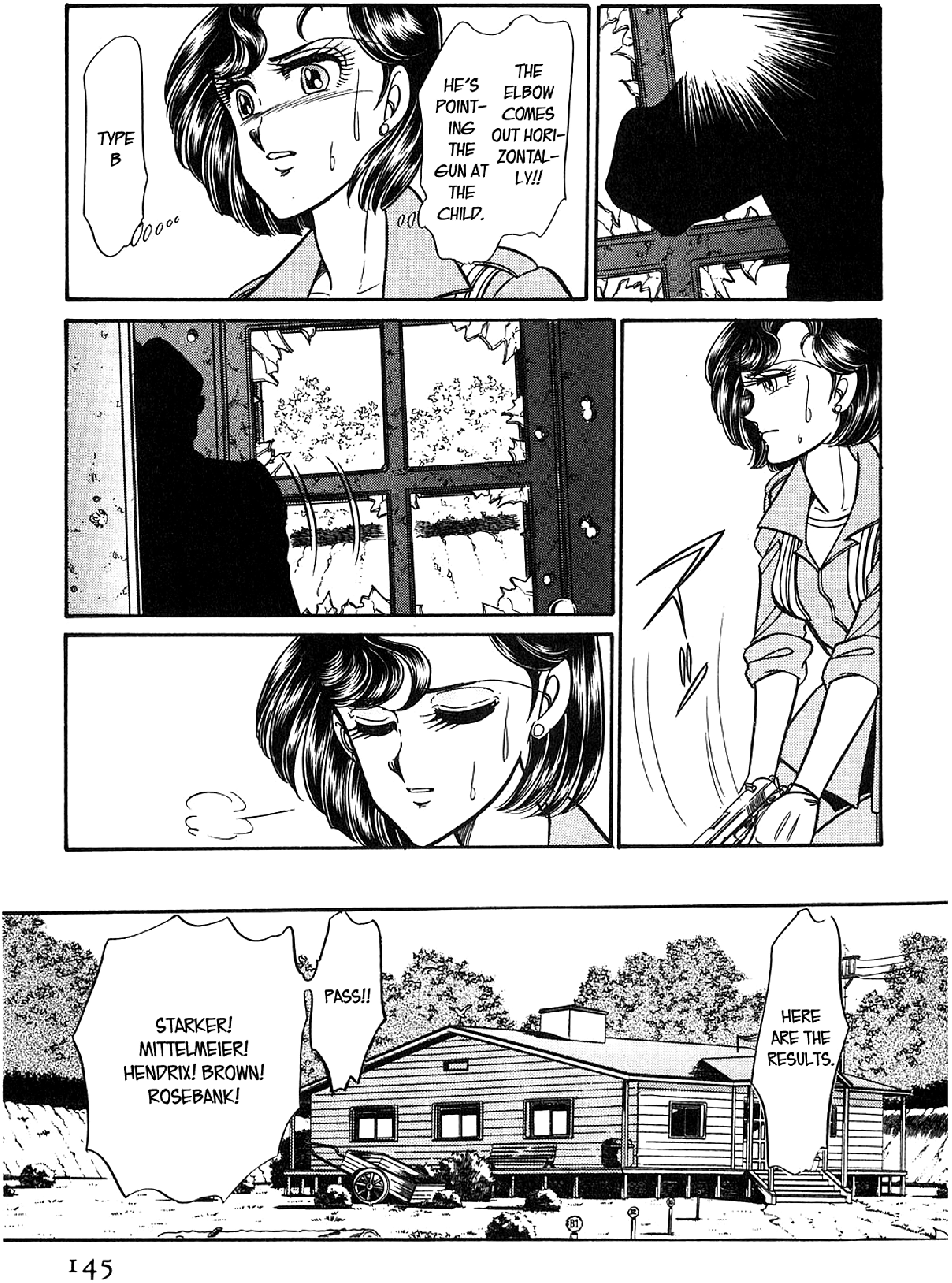

THE HALL CONTINUES TO THE BACK.
THE DINING ROOM IS TO THE RIGHT...

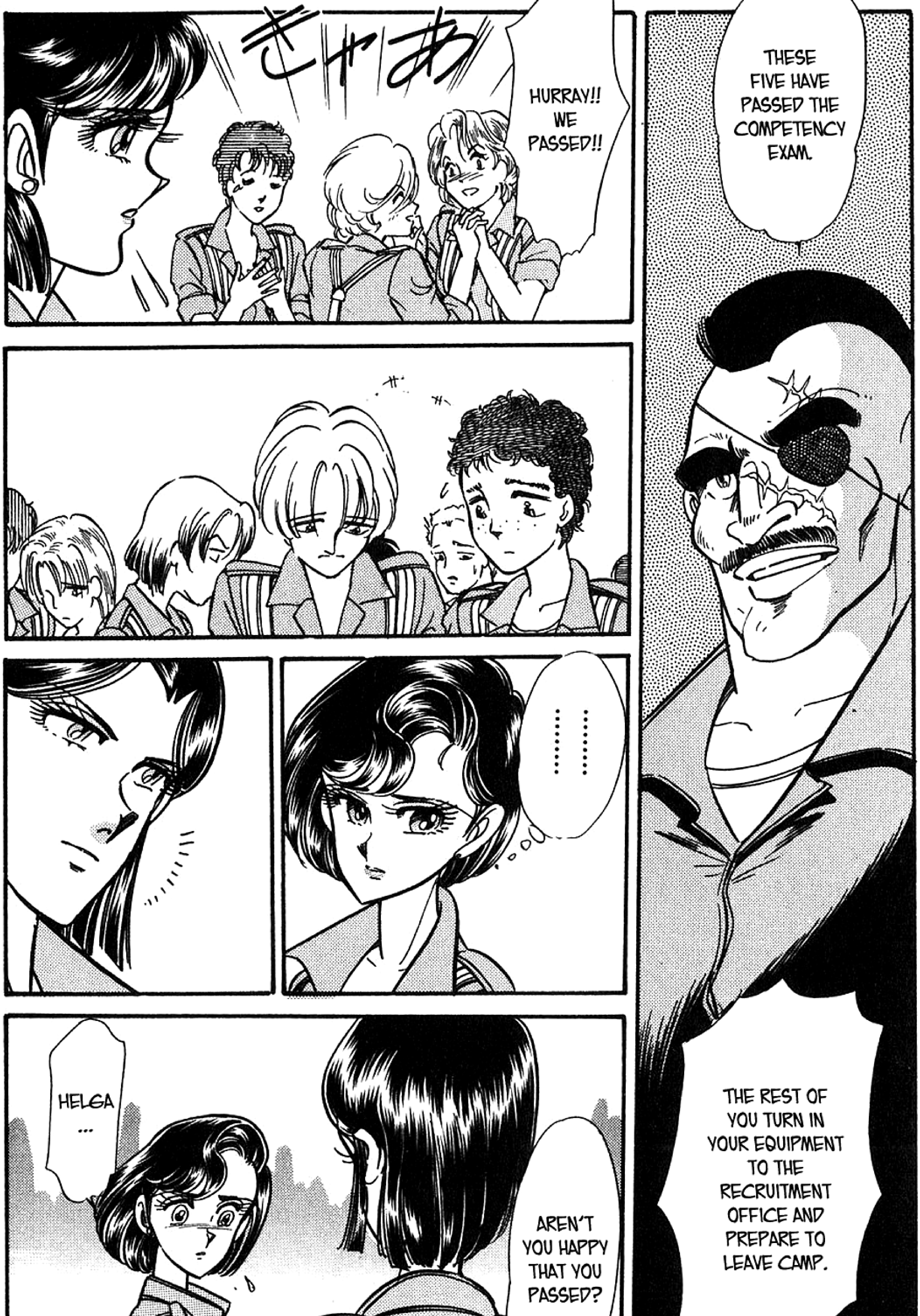

AFTER CROSSING THE LIVING ROOM
THERE'S A BEDROOM DOOR ON THE LEFT.
THE RIGHT DOOR GOES THROUGH THE BATHROOM. THE TOILET IS ON THE FRONT SIDE...
!!
!!
DAMN!! B TYPE!!

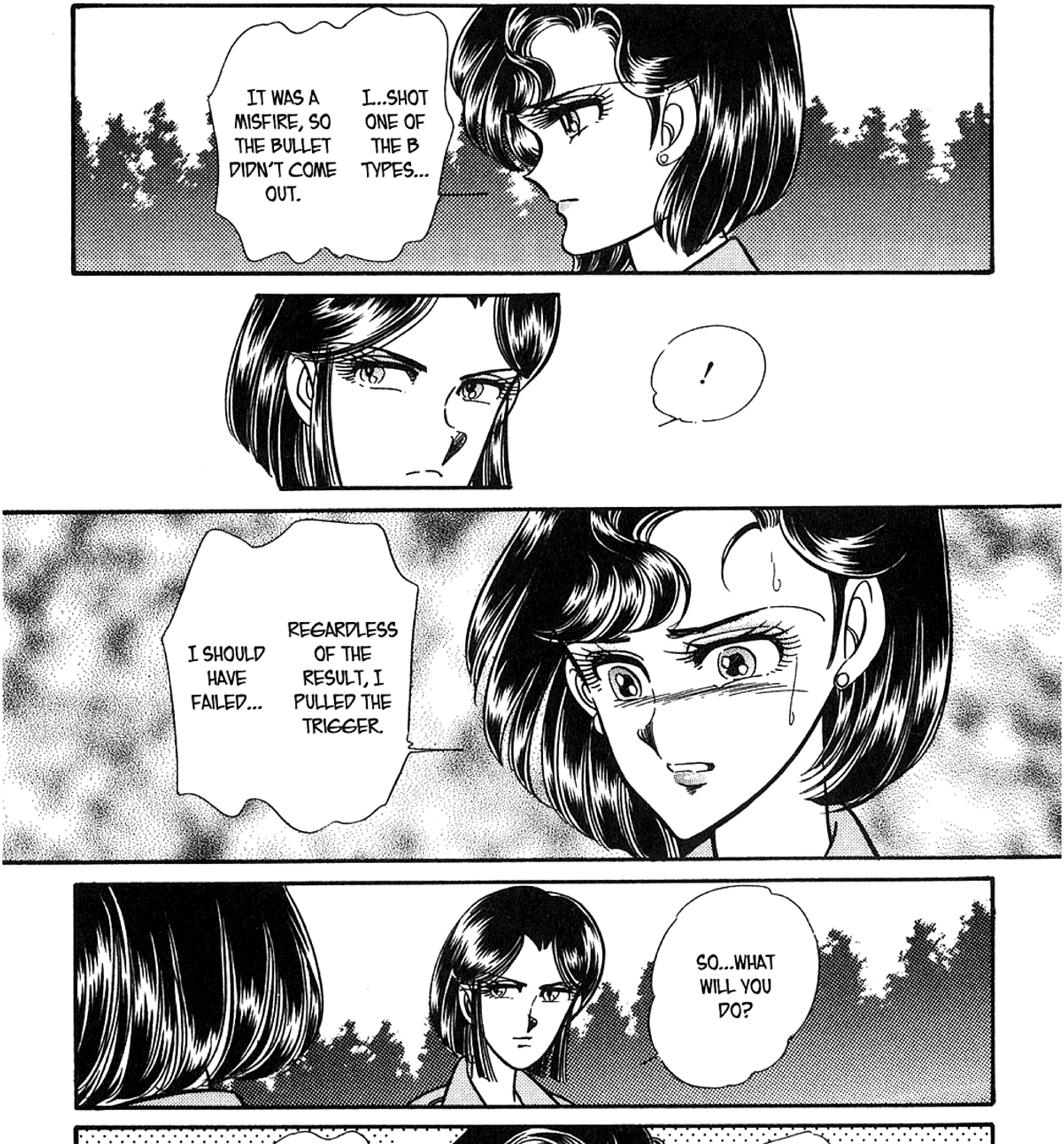

MISFIRE!!
plink

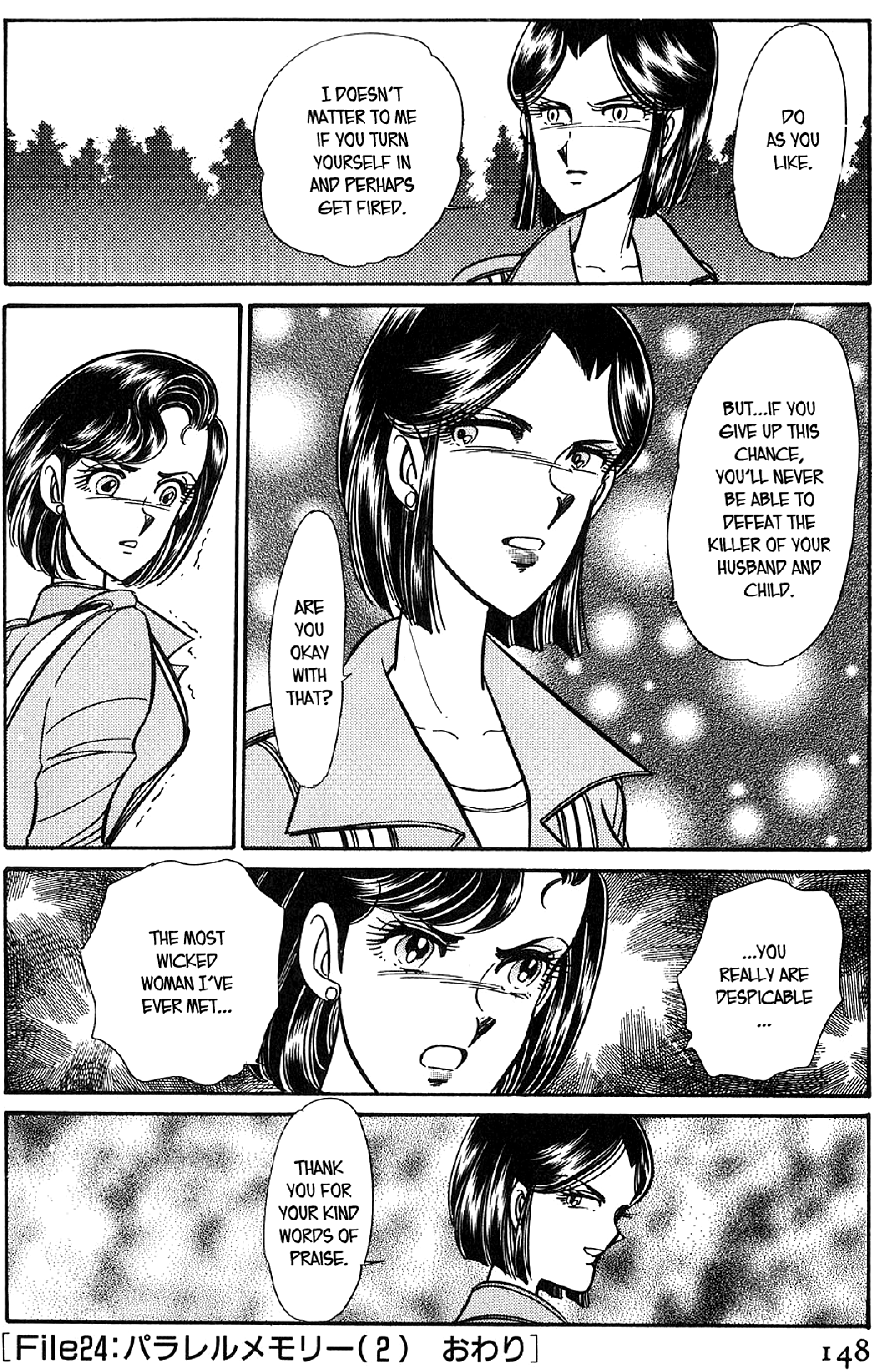

THEY MUST HAVE SEEN...
BUT...THE BULLET DID NOT COME OUT...
TWO MORE MINUTES.
THE EXIT.


!!
チャ!
BACK-LIT!!
I CAN'T TELL IF IT'S A OR B!!


THE ELBOW COMES OUT HORIZONTALLY!!
HE'S POINTING THE GUN AT THE CHILD.
TYPE B
HERE ARE THE RESULTS.
PASS!!
STARKER! MITTELMEIER! HENDRIX! BROWN! ROSEBANK!


THESE FIVE HAVE PASSED THE COMPETENCY EXAM.
THE REST OF YOU TURN IN YOUR EQUIPMENT TO THE RECRUITMENT OFFICE AND PREPARE TO LEAVE CAMP.
ぎゃあ
HURRAY!! WE PASSED!!
......
HELGA ...
AREN'T YOU HAPPY THAT YOU PASSED?


I...SHOT ONE OF THE B TYPES...
IT WAS A MISFIRE, SO THE BULLET DIDN'T COME OUT.
!
REGARDLESS OF THE RESULT, I PULLED THE TRIGGER.
I SHOULD HAVE FAILED...
SO...WHAT WILL YOU DO?
...I DON'T KNOW...
BUT... AT THIS RATE...

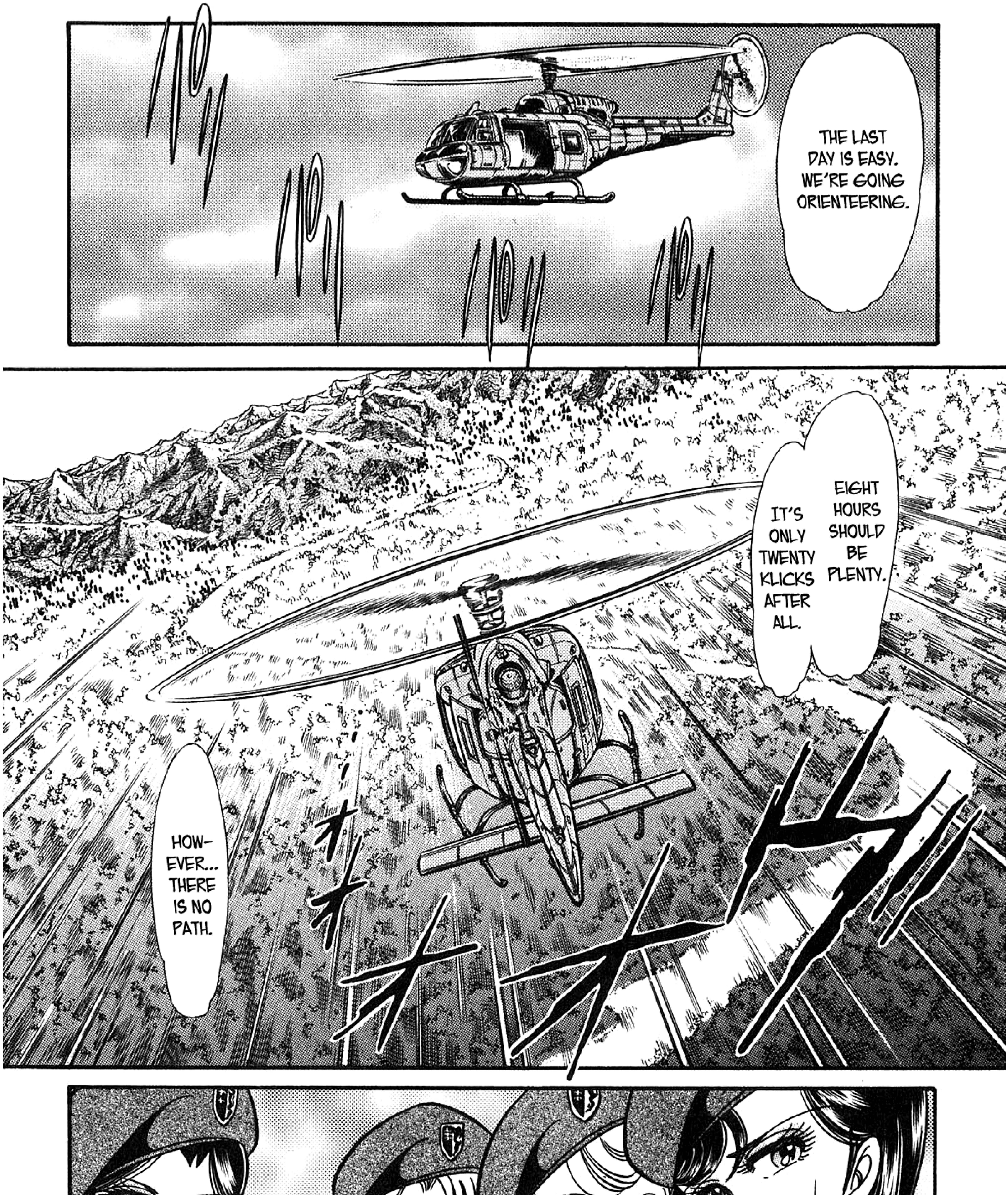

DO AS YOU LIKE.
I DOESN'T MATTER TO ME IF YOU TURN YOURSELF IN AND PERHAPS GET FIRED.
BUT...IF YOU GIVE UP THIS CHANCE, YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO DEFEAT THE KILLER OF YOUR HUSBAND AND CHILD.
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
...YOU REALLY ARE DESPICABLE ...
THE MOST WICKED WOMAN I'VE EVER MET...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS OF PRAISE.

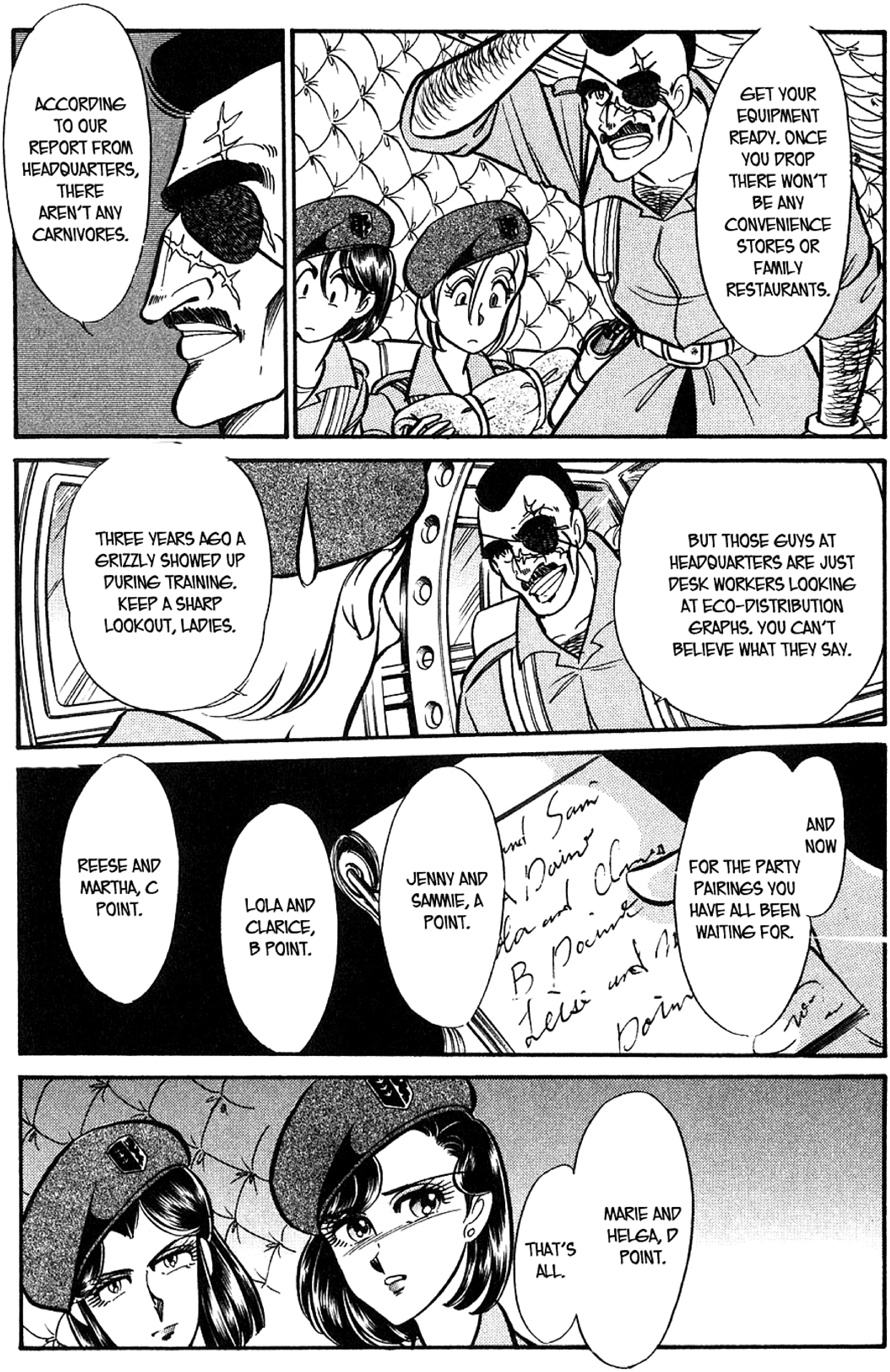
［File24：パラレルメモリー（2）　おわり］

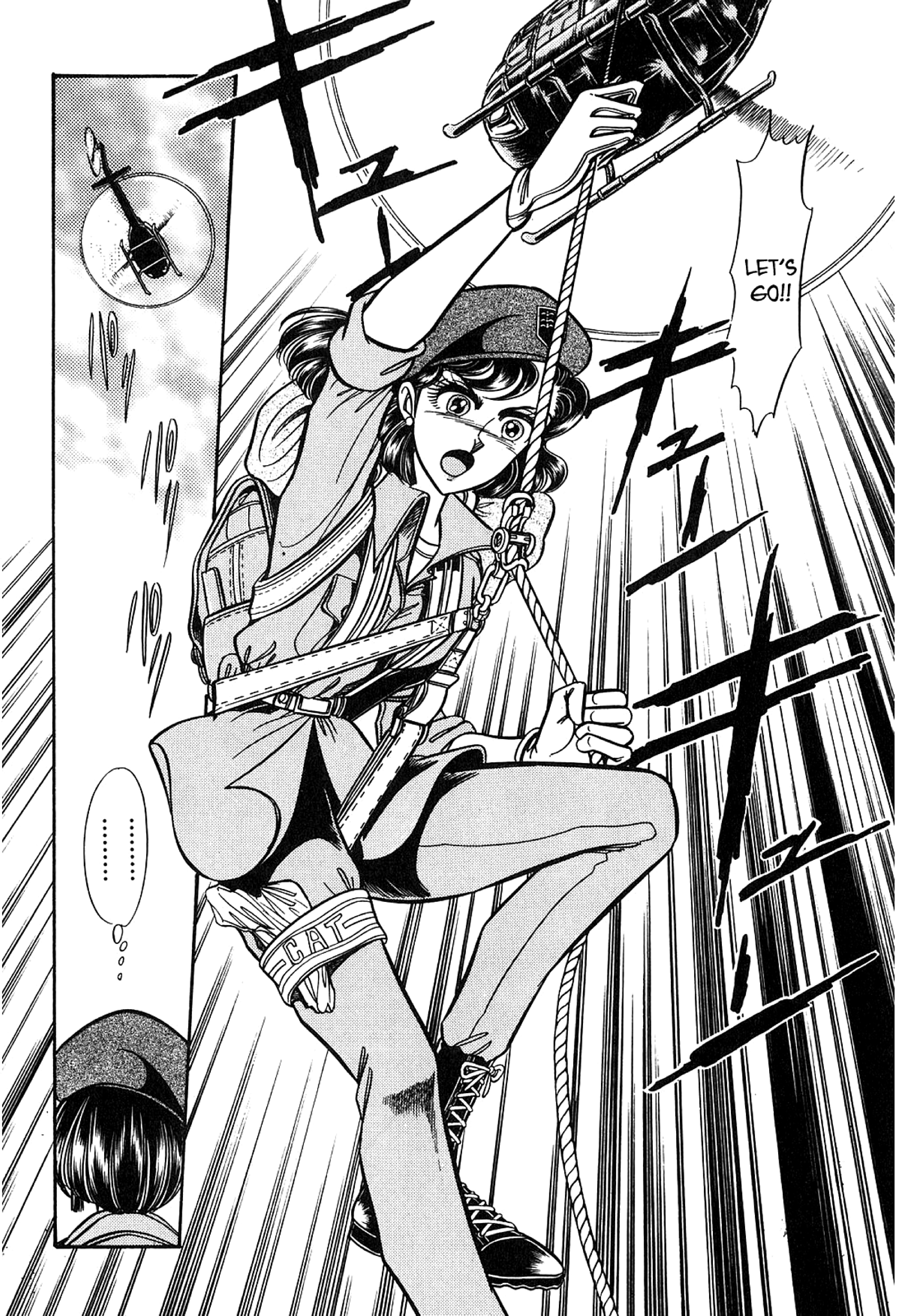
砂の薔薇

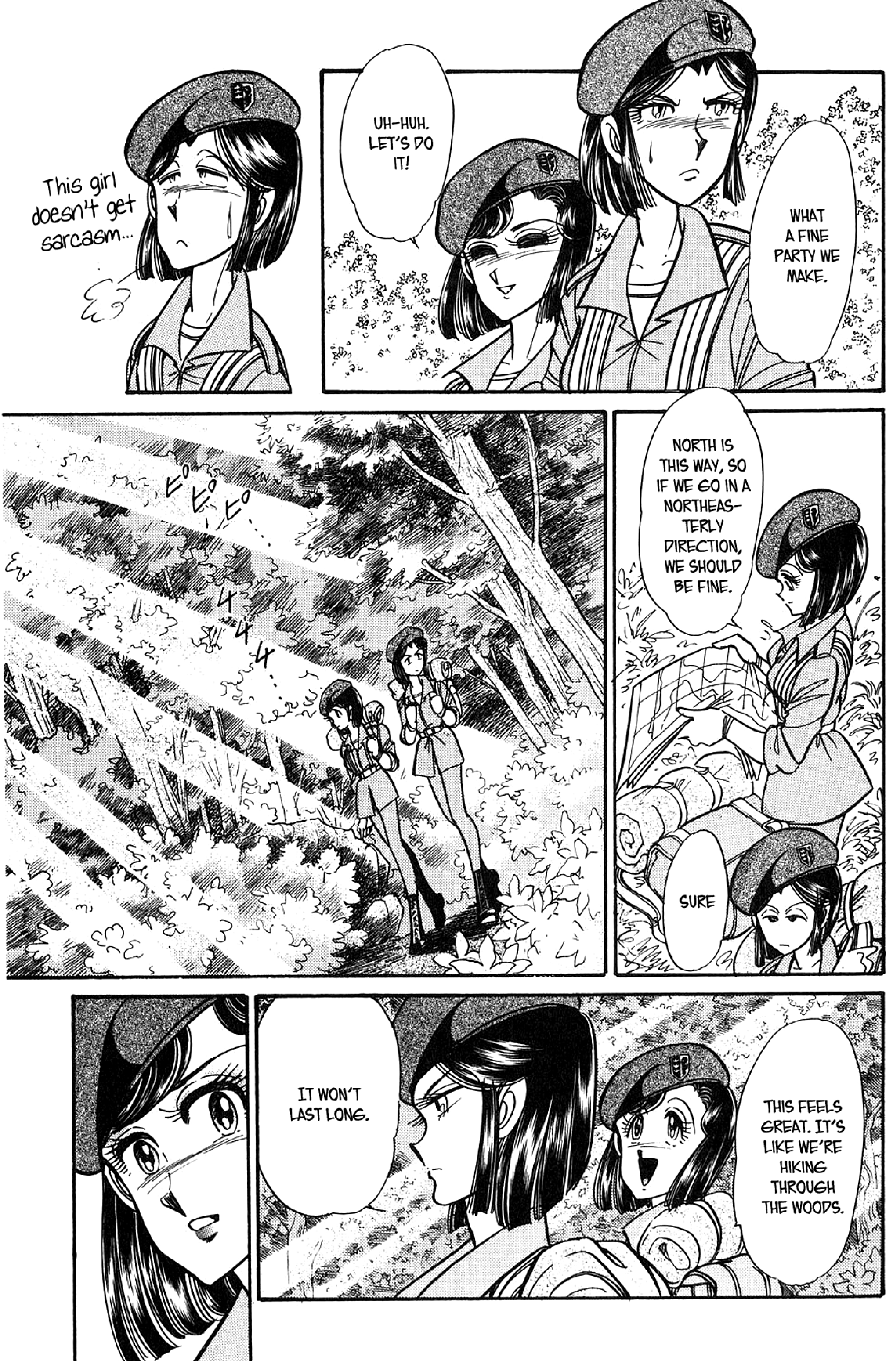
デザート・ローズ

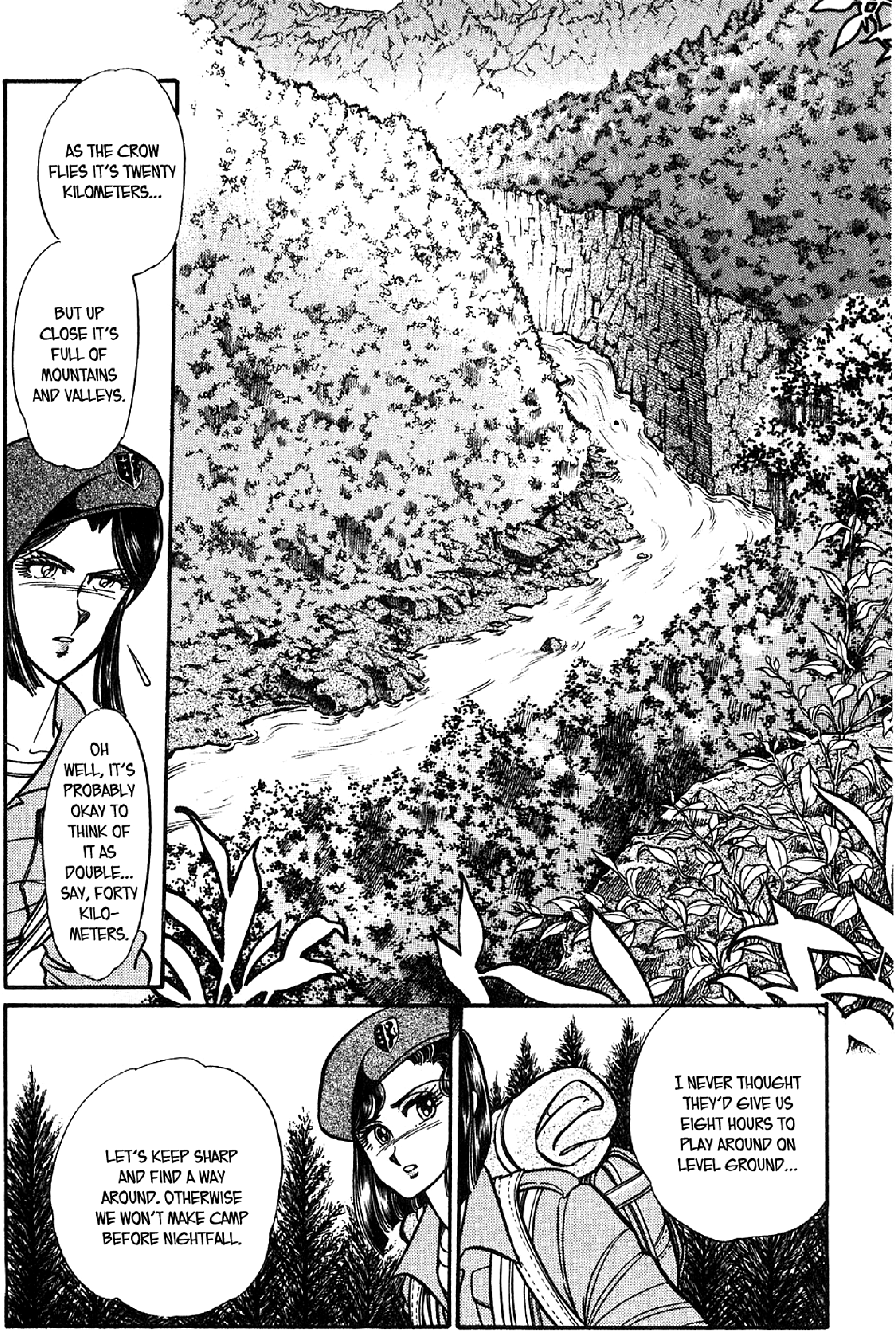
File 24: Parallel Memories (3)

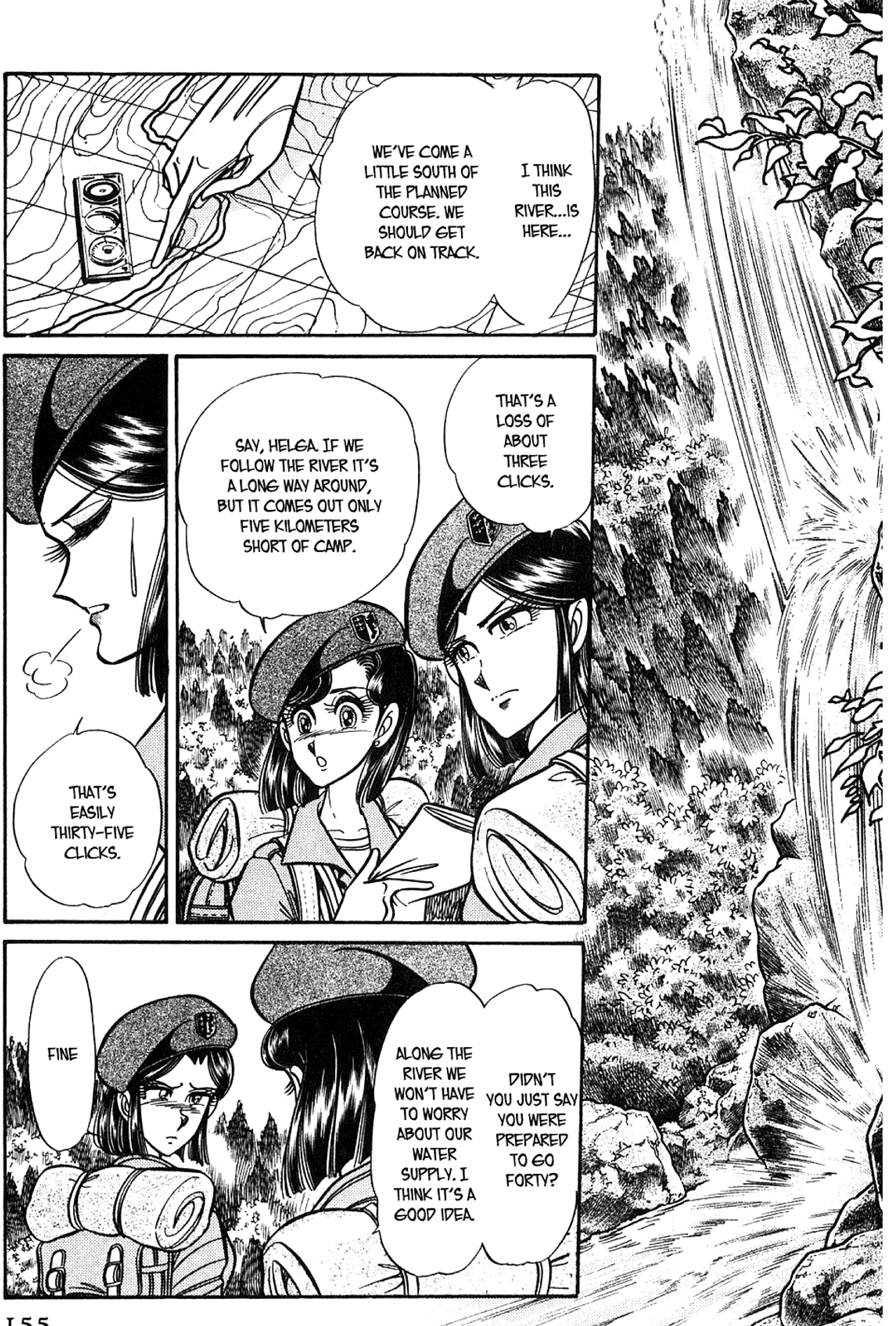

THE LAST DAY IS EASY. WE'RE GOING ORIENTEERING.
EIGHT HOURS SHOULD BE PLENTY.
IT'S ONLY TWENTY KLICKS AFTER ALL.
HOWEVER... THERE IS NO PATH.

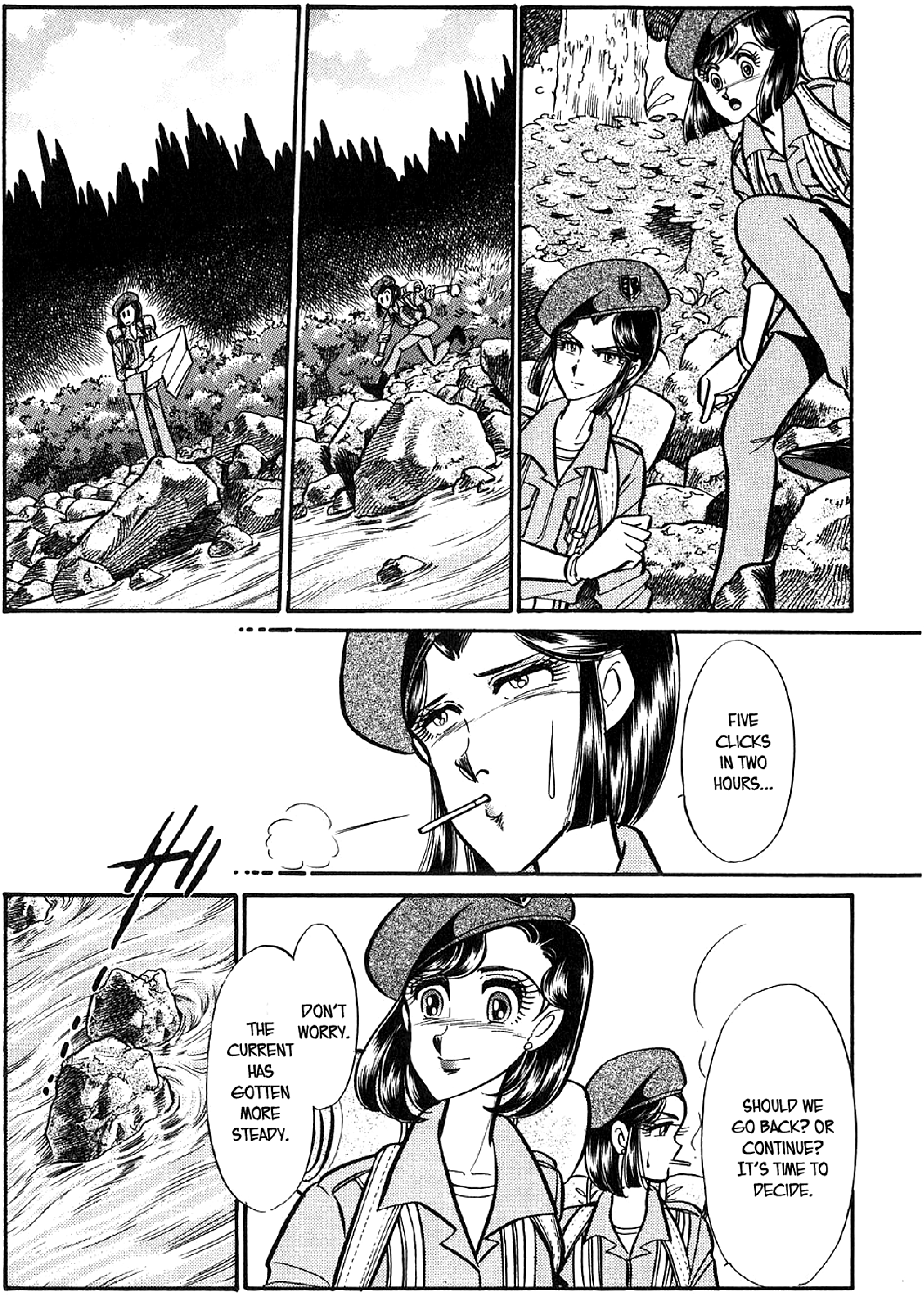

GET YOUR EQUIPMENT READY. ONCE YOU DROP THERE WON'T BE ANY CONVENIENCE STORES OR FAMILY RESTAURANTS.
ACCORDING TO OUR REPORT FROM HEADQUARTERS, THERE AREN'T ANY CARNIVORES.
BUT THOSE GUYS AT HEADQUARTERS ARE JUST DESK WORKERS LOOKING AT ECO-DISTRIBUTION GRAPHS. YOU CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT THEY SAY.
THREE YEARS AGO A GRIZZLY SHOWED UP DURING TRAINING. KEEP A SHARP LOOKOUT, LADIES.
AND NOW FOR THE PARTY PAIRINGS YOU HAVE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR.
JENNY AND SAMMIE, A POINT.
LOLA AND CLARICE, B POINT.
REESE AND MARTHA, C POINT.
MARIE AND HELGA, D POINT.
THAT'S ALL.

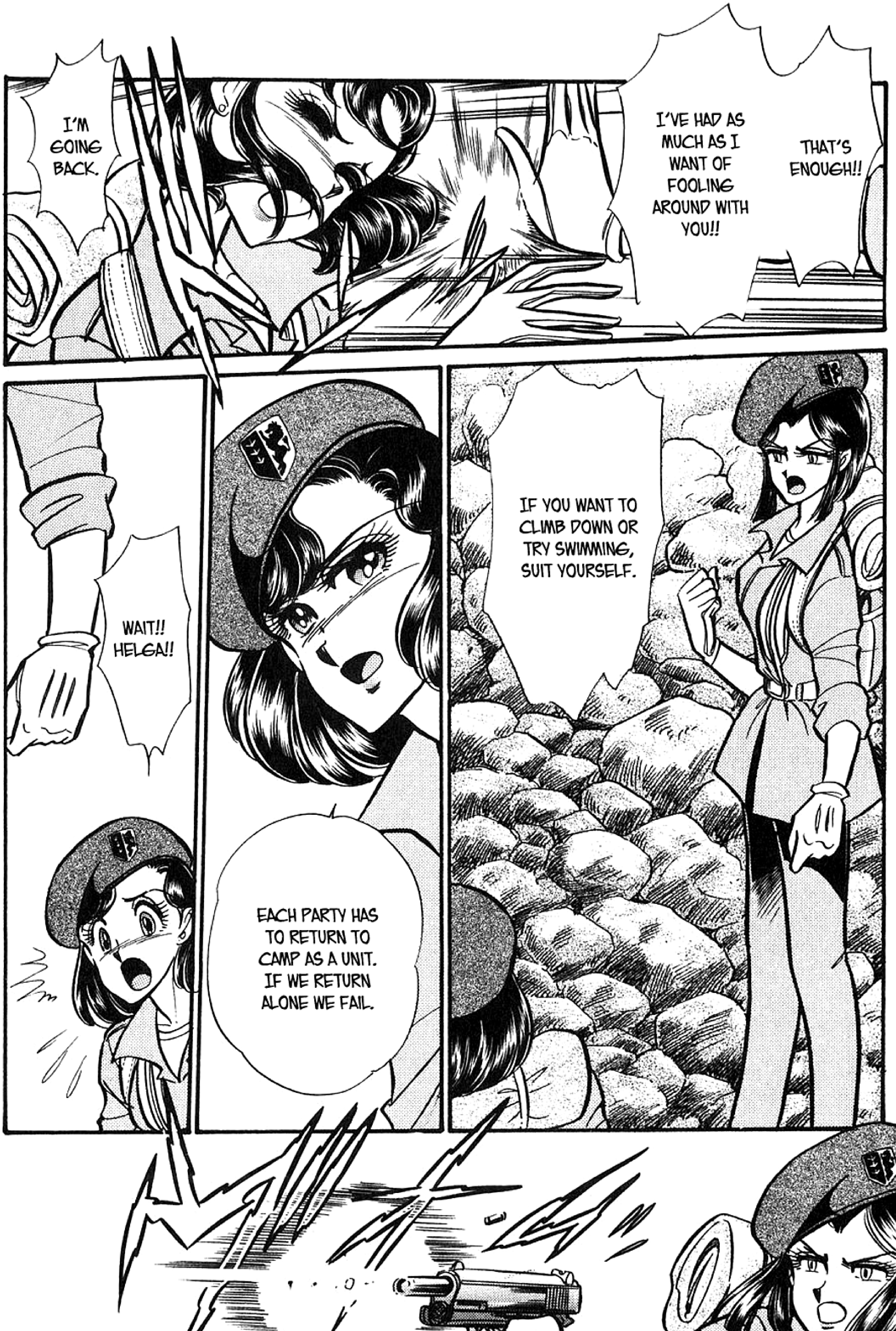

LET'S GO!!
……
CAT

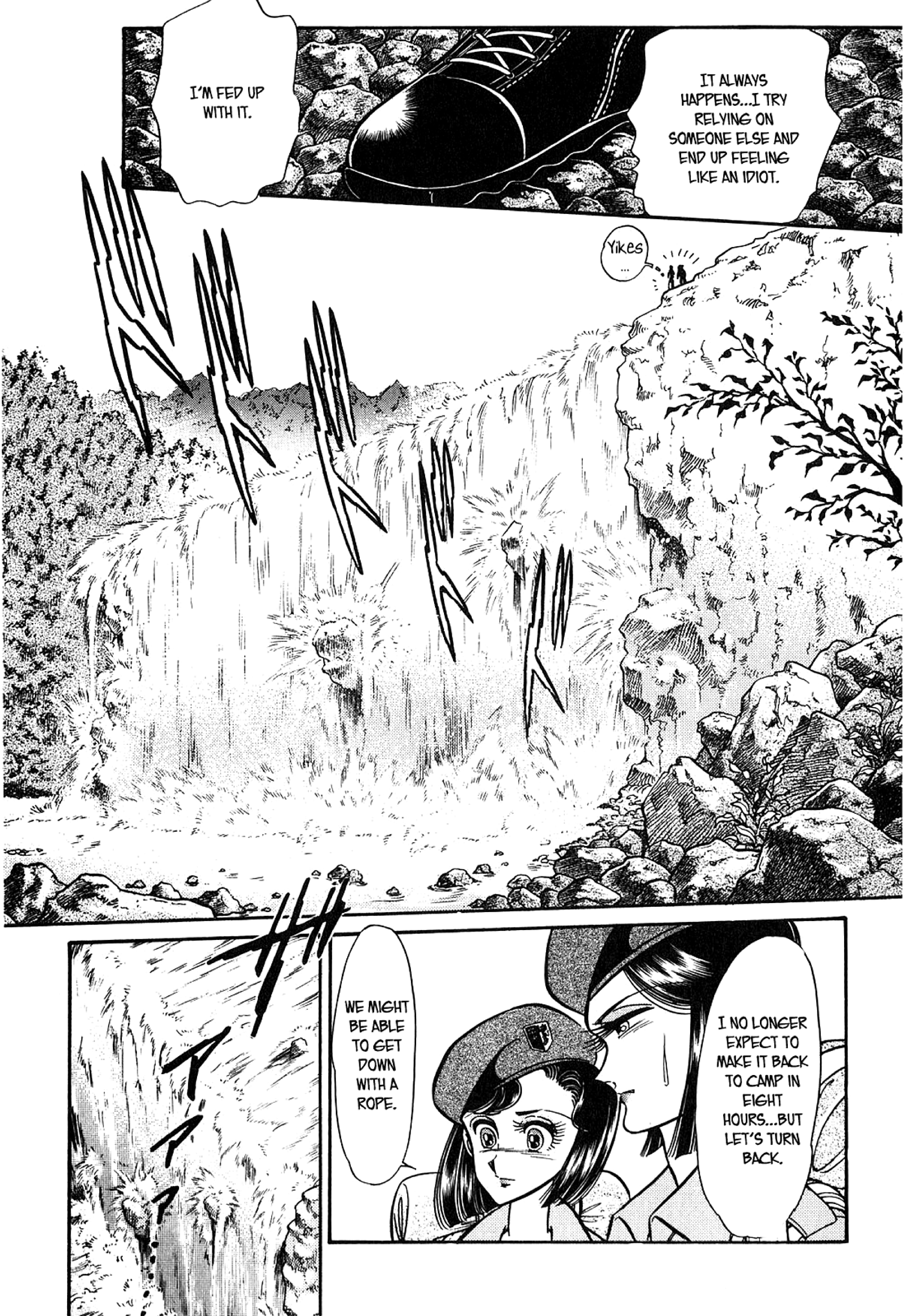

WHAT A FINE PARTY WE MAKE.
UH-HUH. LET'S DO IT!
This girl doesn't get sarcasm...
NORTH IS THIS WAY, SO IF WE GO IN A NORTHEASTERLY DIRECTION, WE SHOULD BE FINE.
SURE
ピ ピ ピ…
ム ム ム…
THIS FEELS GREAT. IT'S LIKE WE'RE HIKING THROUGH THE WOODS.
IT WON'T LAST LONG.

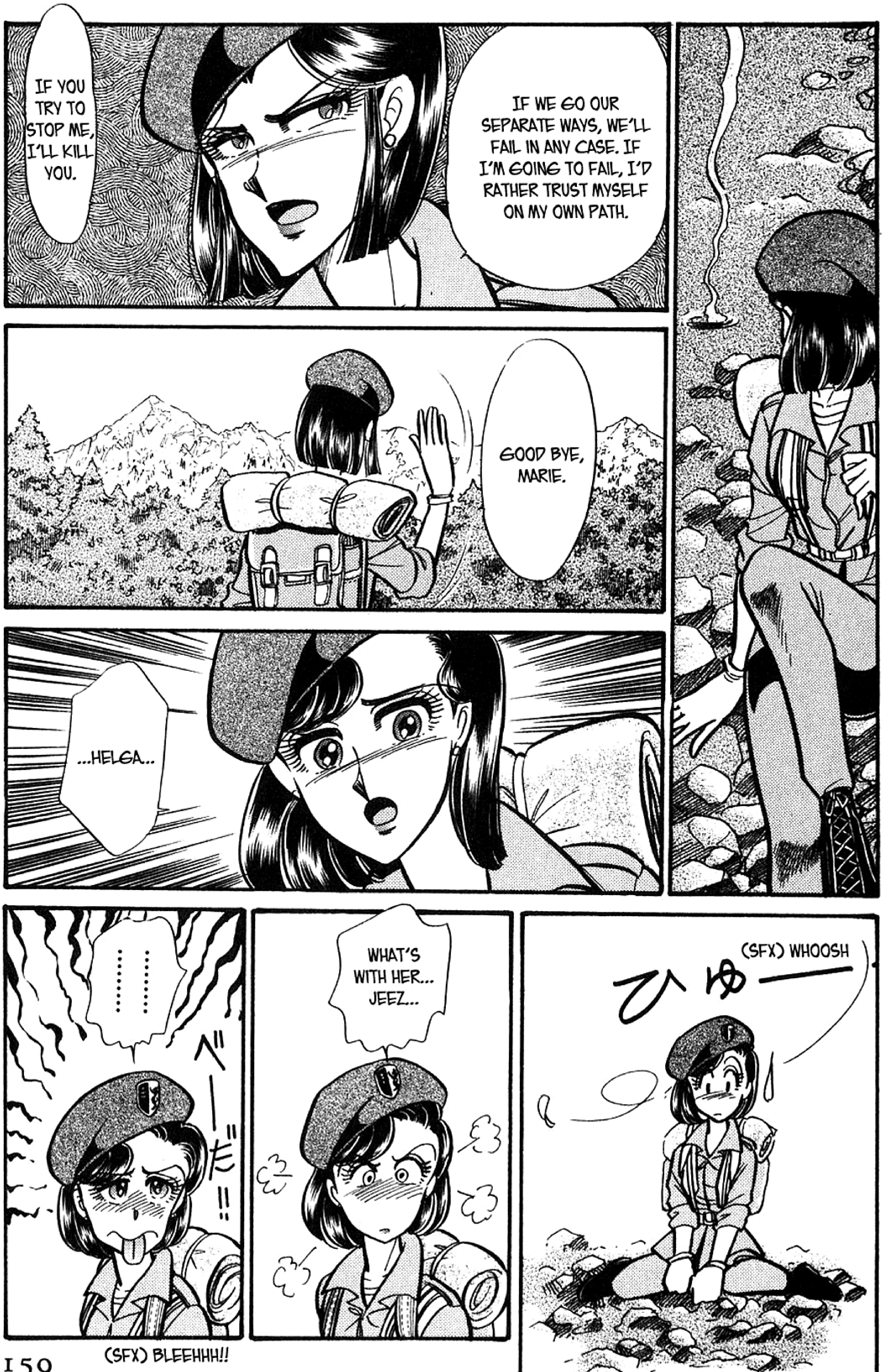

AS THE CROW FLIES IT'S TWENTY KILOMETERS...
BUT UP CLOSE IT'S FULL OF MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS.
OH WELL, IT'S PROBABLY OKAY TO THINK OF IT AS DOUBLE... SAY, FORTY KILOMETERS.
I NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D GIVE US EIGHT HOURS TO PLAY AROUND ON LEVEL GROUND...
LET'S KEEP SHARP AND FIND A WAY AROUND. OTHERWISE WE WON'T MAKE CAMP BEFORE NIGHTFALL.

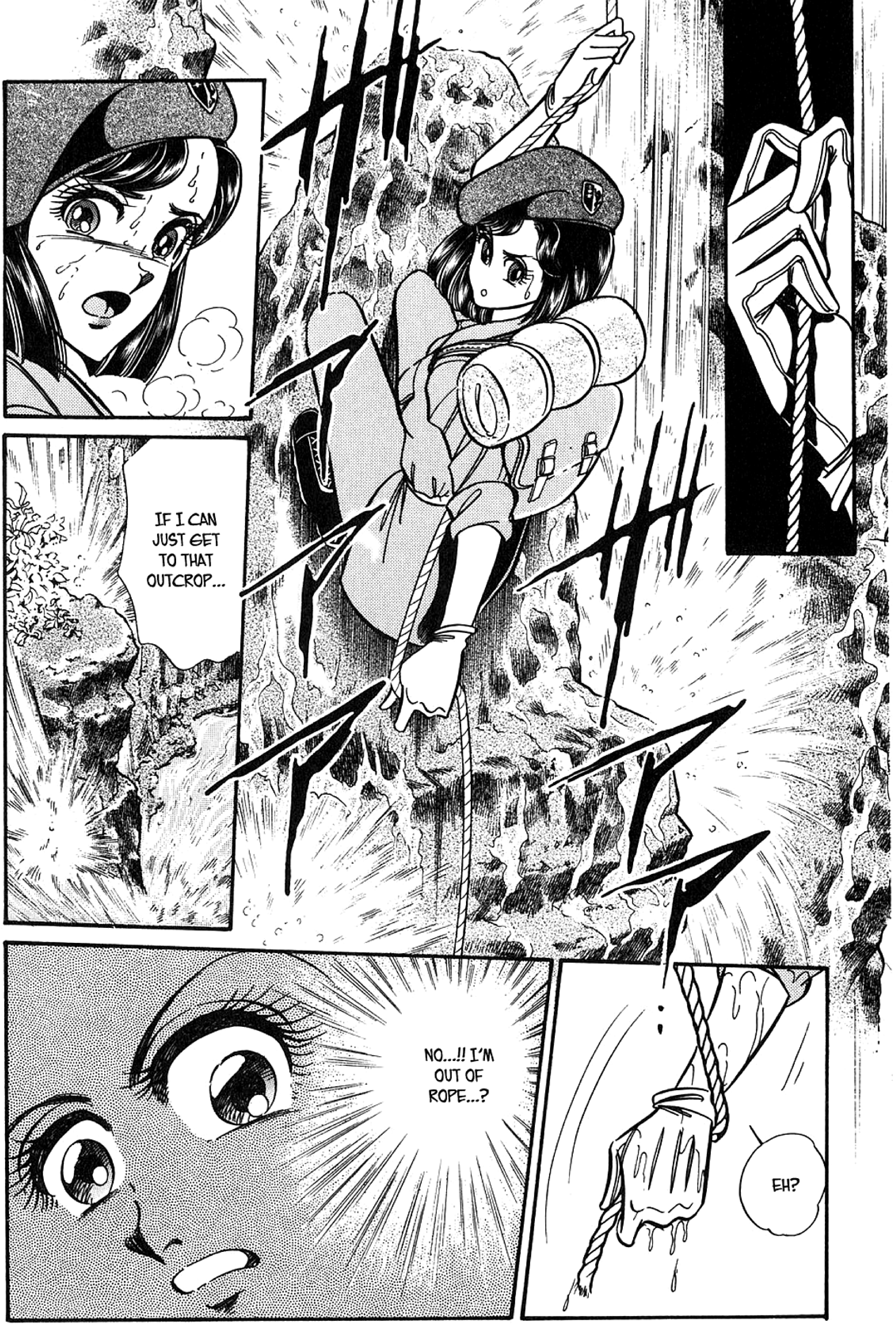

I THINK THIS RIVER...IS HERE...
WE'VE COME A LITTLE SOUTH OF THE PLANNED COURSE. WE SHOULD GET BACK ON TRACK.
THAT'S A LOSS OF ABOUT THREE CLICKS.
SAY, HELGA. IF WE FOLLOW THE RIVER IT'S A LONG WAY AROUND, BUT IT COMES OUT ONLY FIVE KILOMETERS SHORT OF CAMP.
THAT'S EASILY THIRTY-FIVE CLICKS.
DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY YOU WERE PREPARED TO GO FORTY?
ALONG THE RIVER WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT OUR WATER SUPPLY. I THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA.
FINE

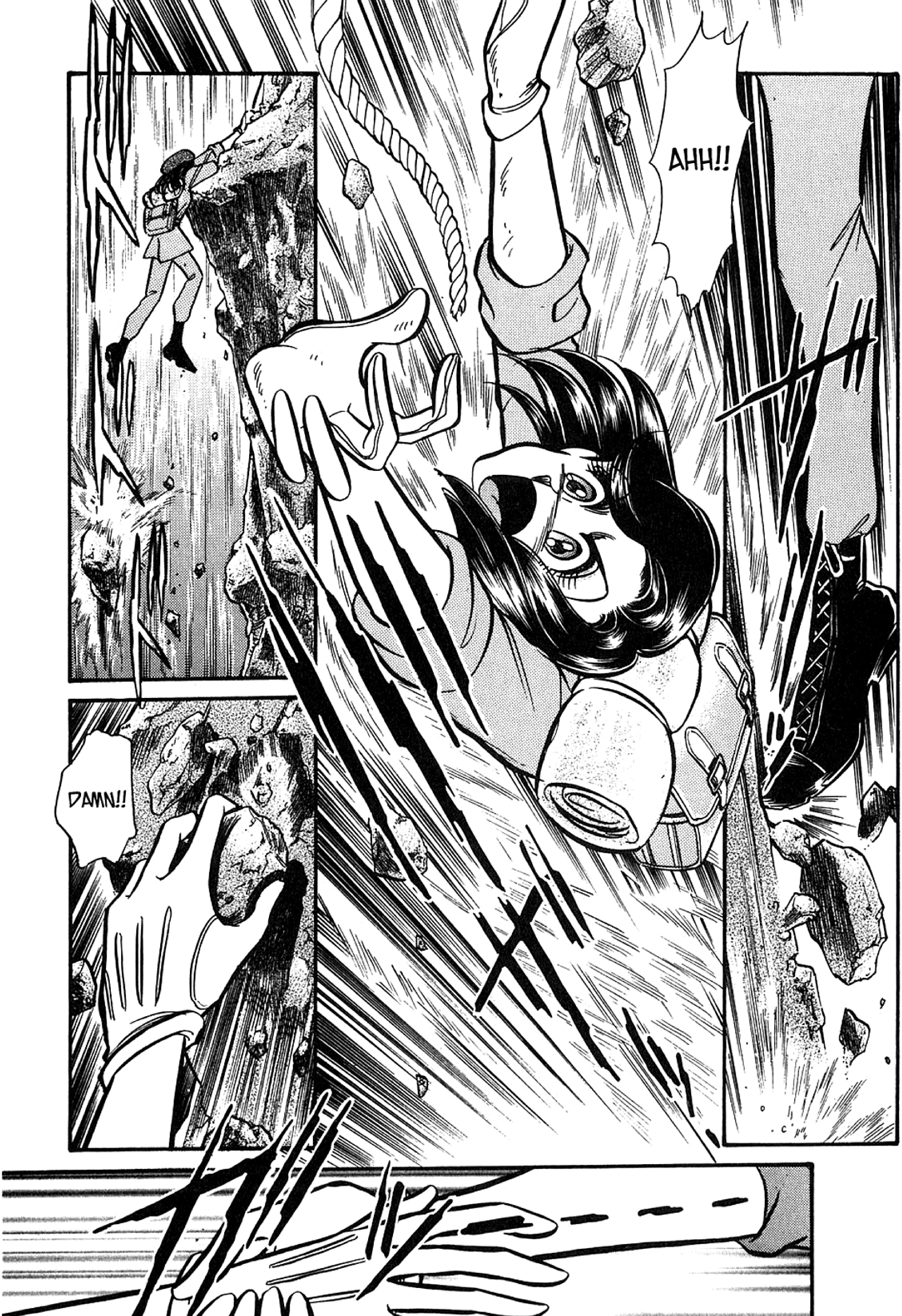

FIVE CLICKS IN TWO HOURS...
SHOULD WE GO BACK? OR CONTINUE? IT'S TIME TO DECIDE.
DON'T WORRY. THE CURRENT HAS GOTTEN MORE STEADY.

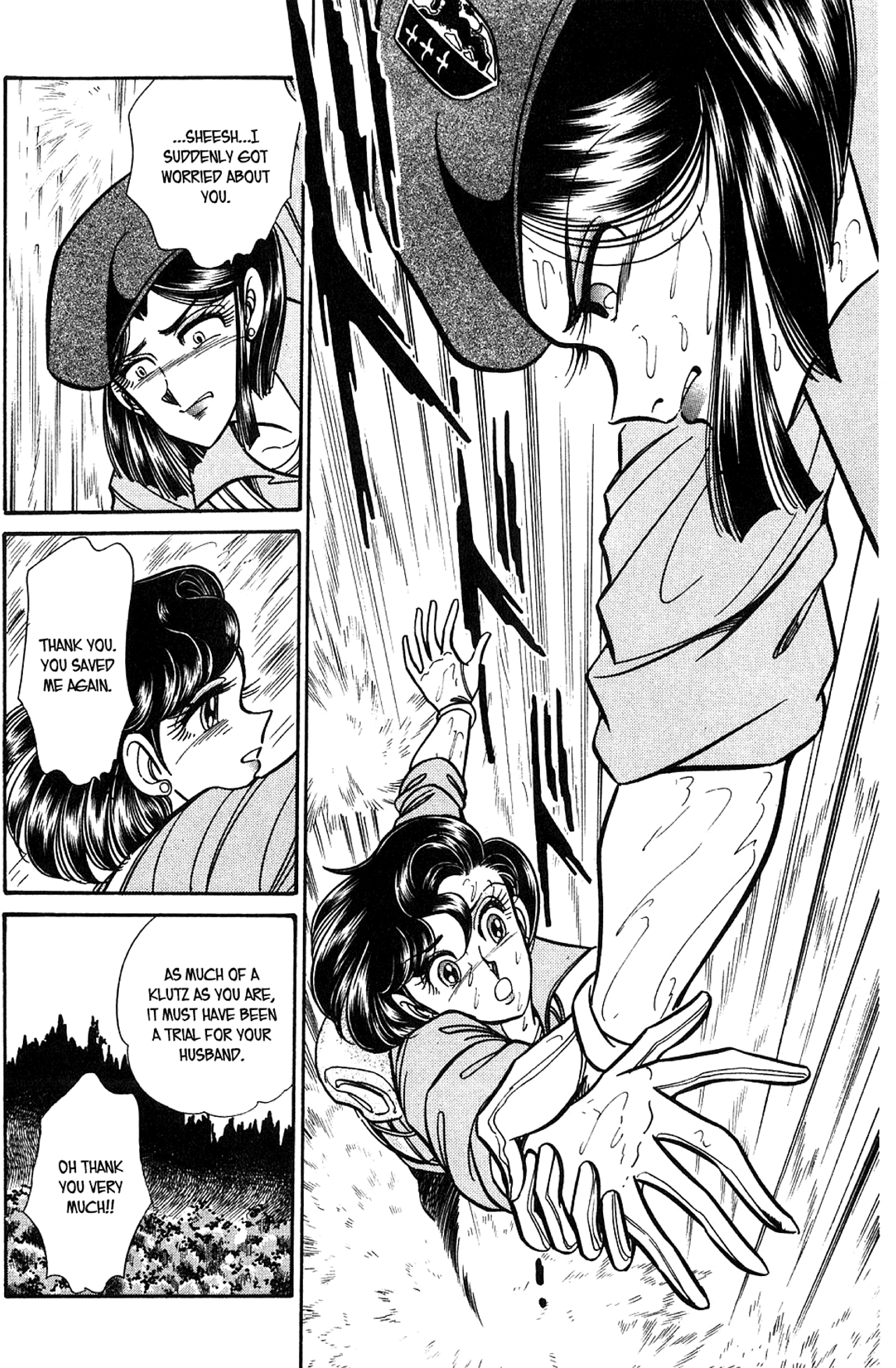

THAT'S ENOUGH!!
I'VE HAD AS MUCH AS I WANT OF FOOLING AROUND WITH YOU!!
I'M GOING BACK.
IF YOU WANT TO CLIMB DOWN OR TRY SWIMMING, SUIT YOURSELF.
EACH PARTY HAS TO RETURN TO CAMP AS A UNIT. IF WE RETURN ALONE WE FAIL.
WAIT!! HELGA!!

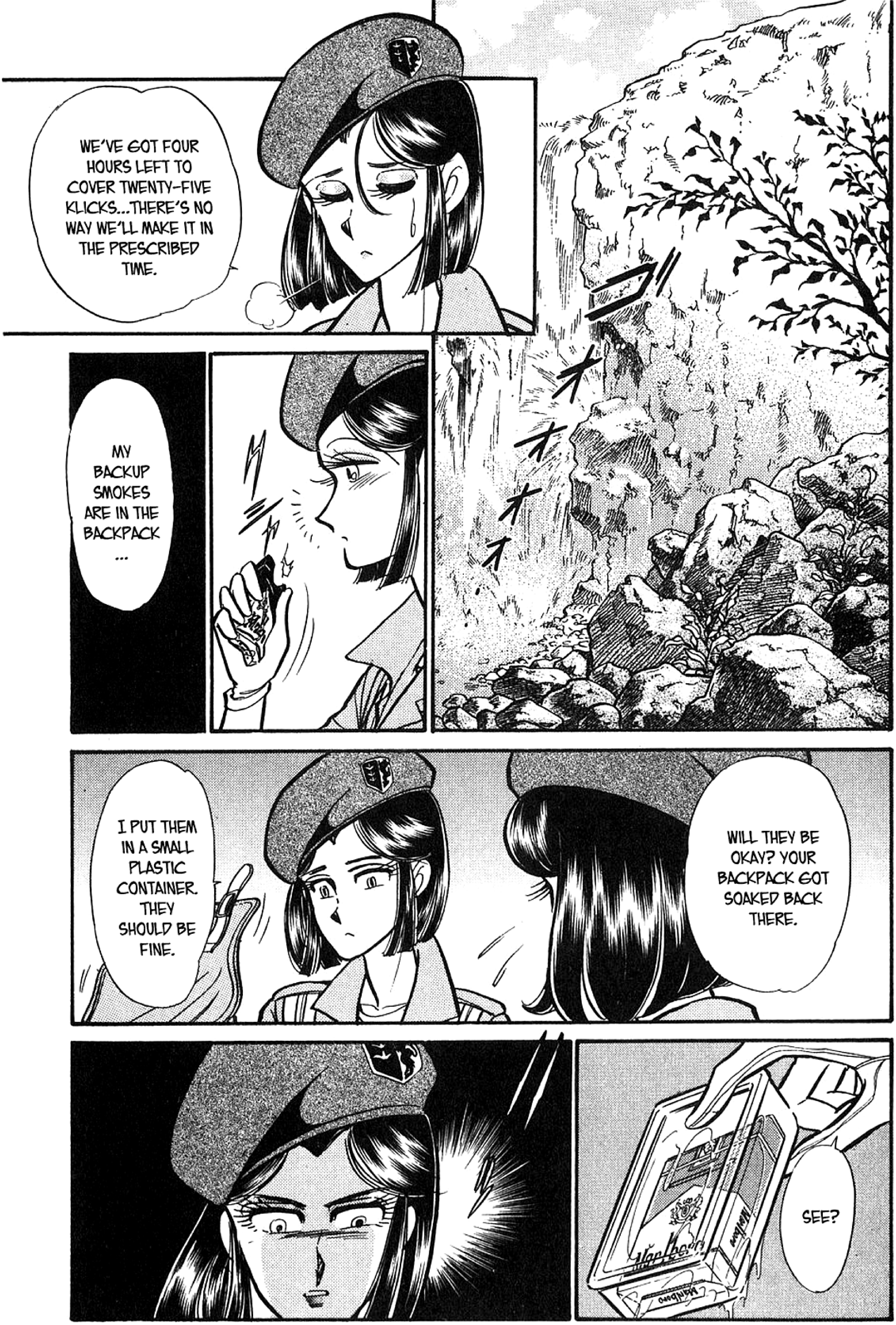

IT ALWAYS HAPPENS...I TRY RELYING ON SOMEONE ELSE AND END UP FEELING LIKE AN IDIOT.
I'M FED UP WITH IT.
Yikes ...
I NO LONGER EXPECT TO MAKE IT BACK TO CAMP IN EIGHT HOURS...BUT LET'S TURN BACK.
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET DOWN WITH A ROPE.

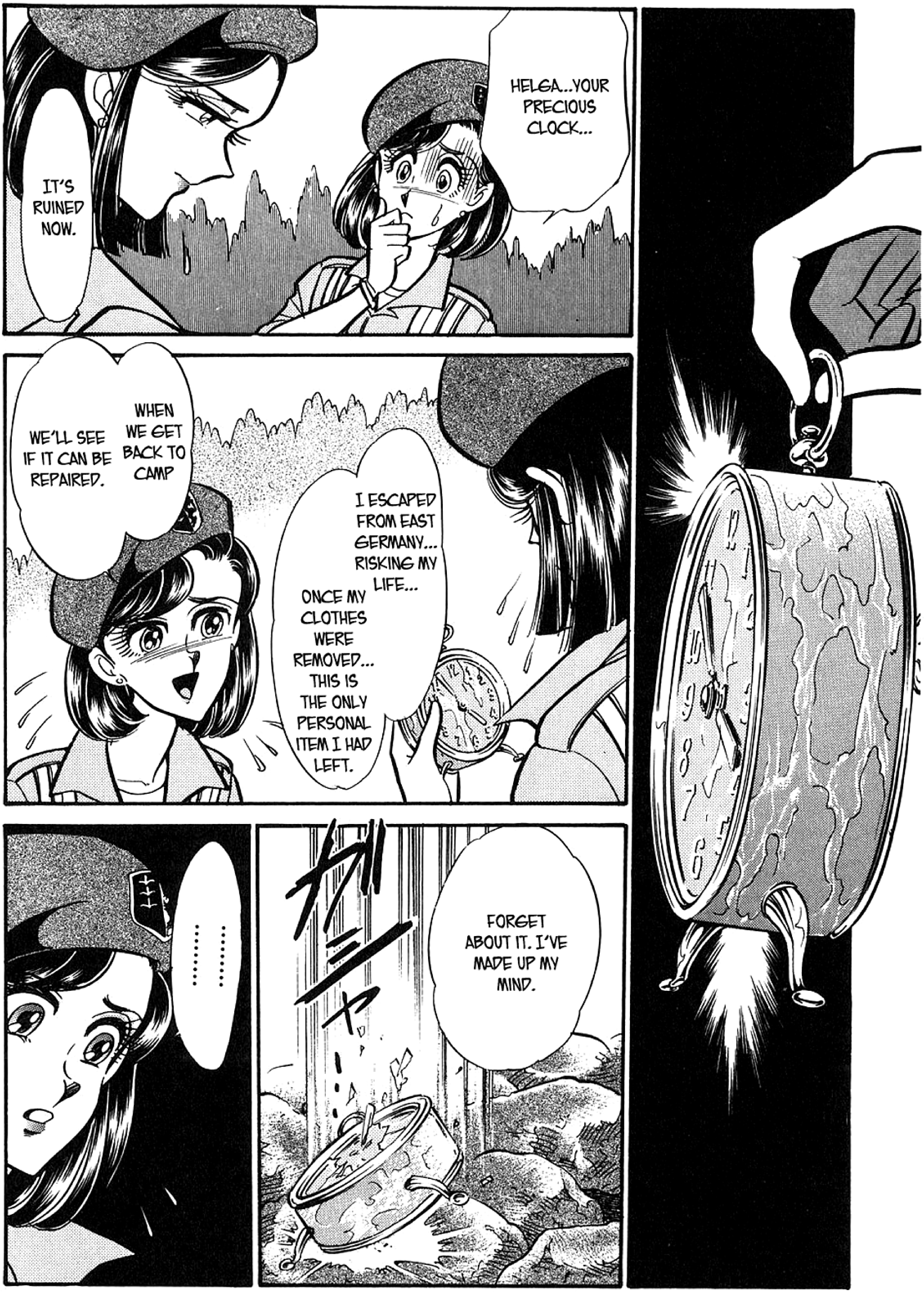

IF WE GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS, WE'LL FAIL IN ANY CASE. IF I'M GOING TO FAIL, I'D RATHER TRUST MYSELF ON MY OWN PATH.
IF YOU TRY TO STOP ME, I'LL KILL YOU.
GOOD BYE, MARIE.
...HELGA...
ひゅー
(SFX) WHOOSH
WHAT'S WITH HER... JEEZ...
……
べーだ!!
(SFX) BLEEHHH!!

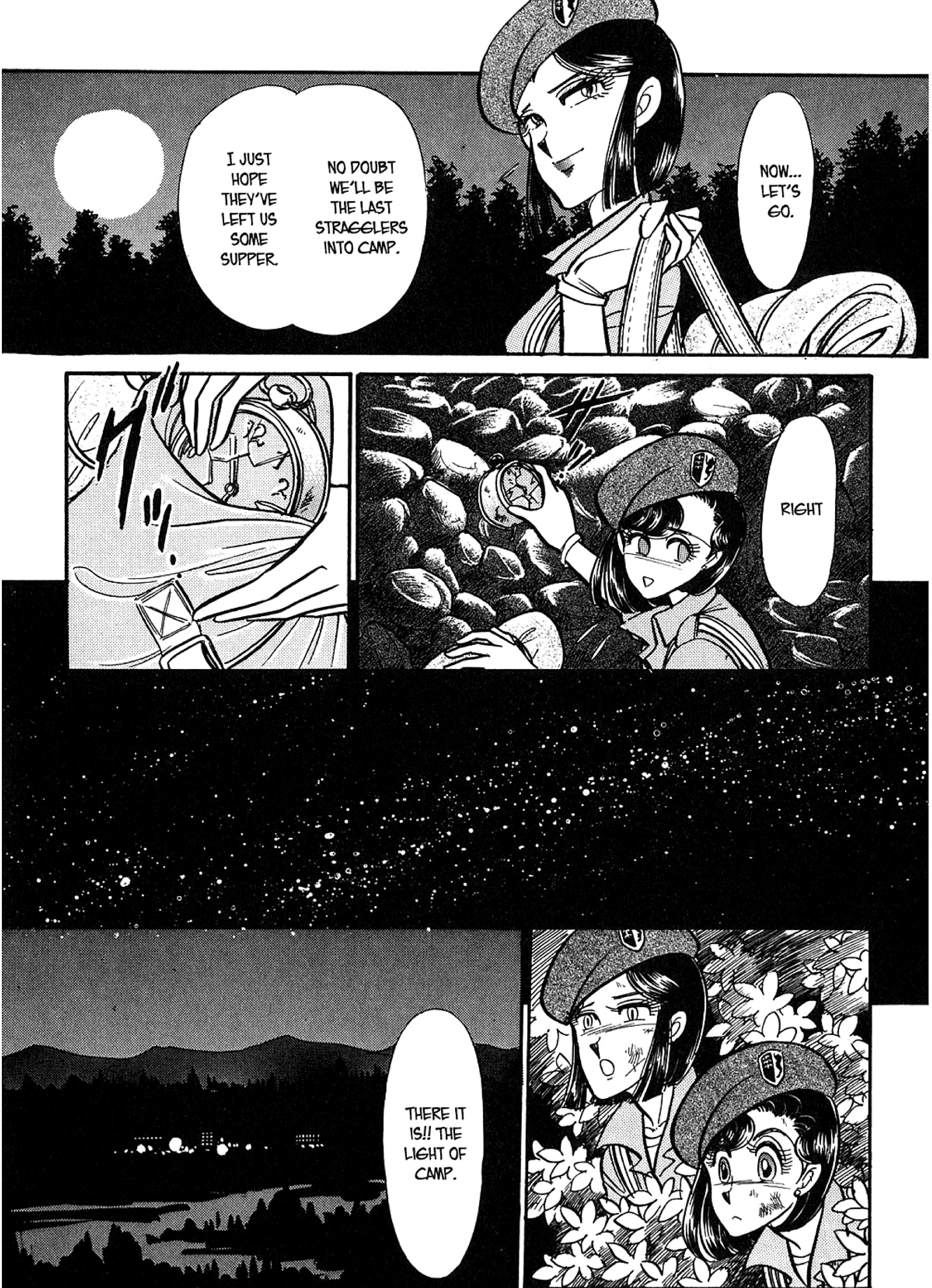

IF I CAN JUST GET TO THAT OUTCROP...
EH?
NO...!! I'M OUT OF ROPE...?

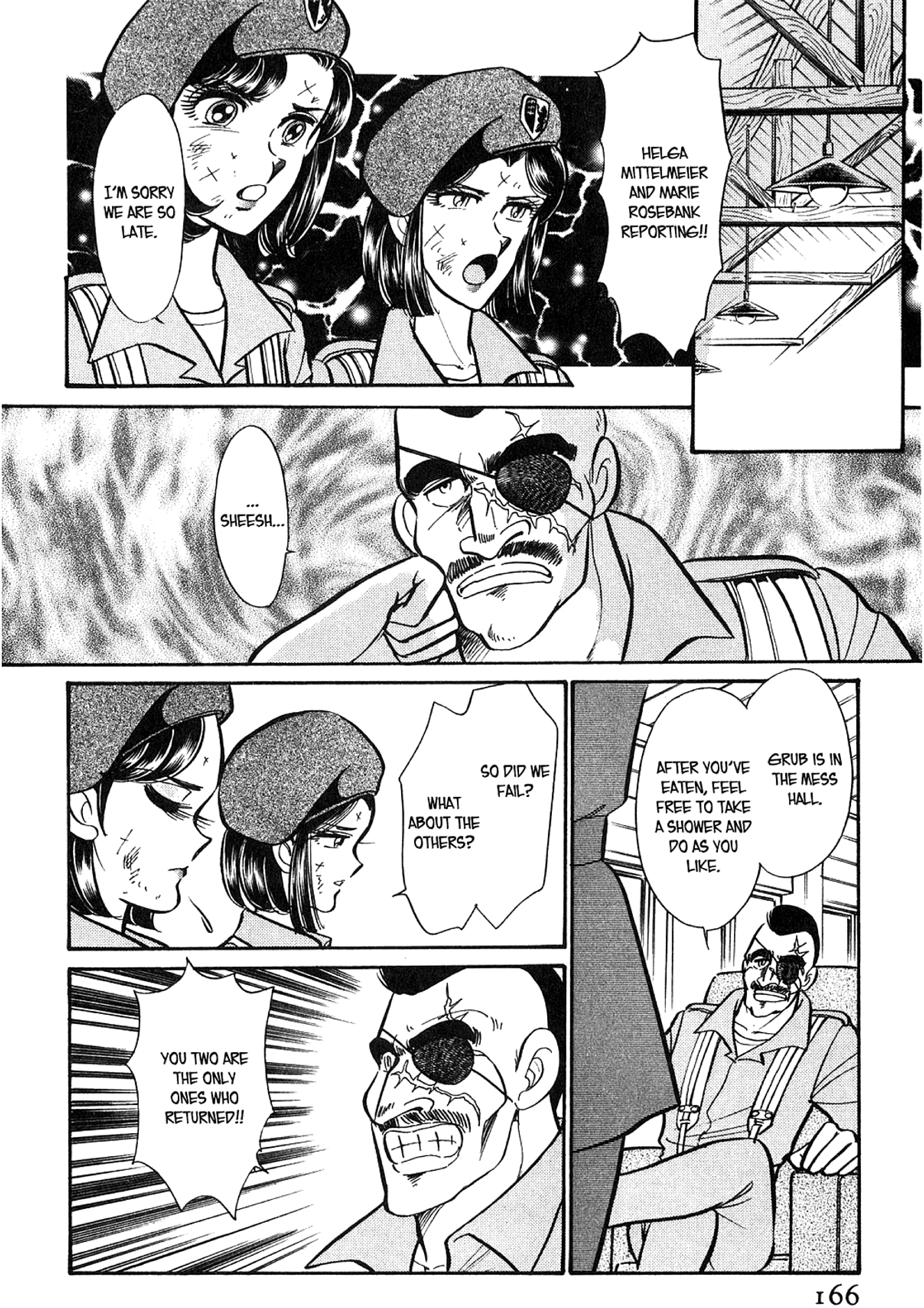

AHH!!
DAMN!!

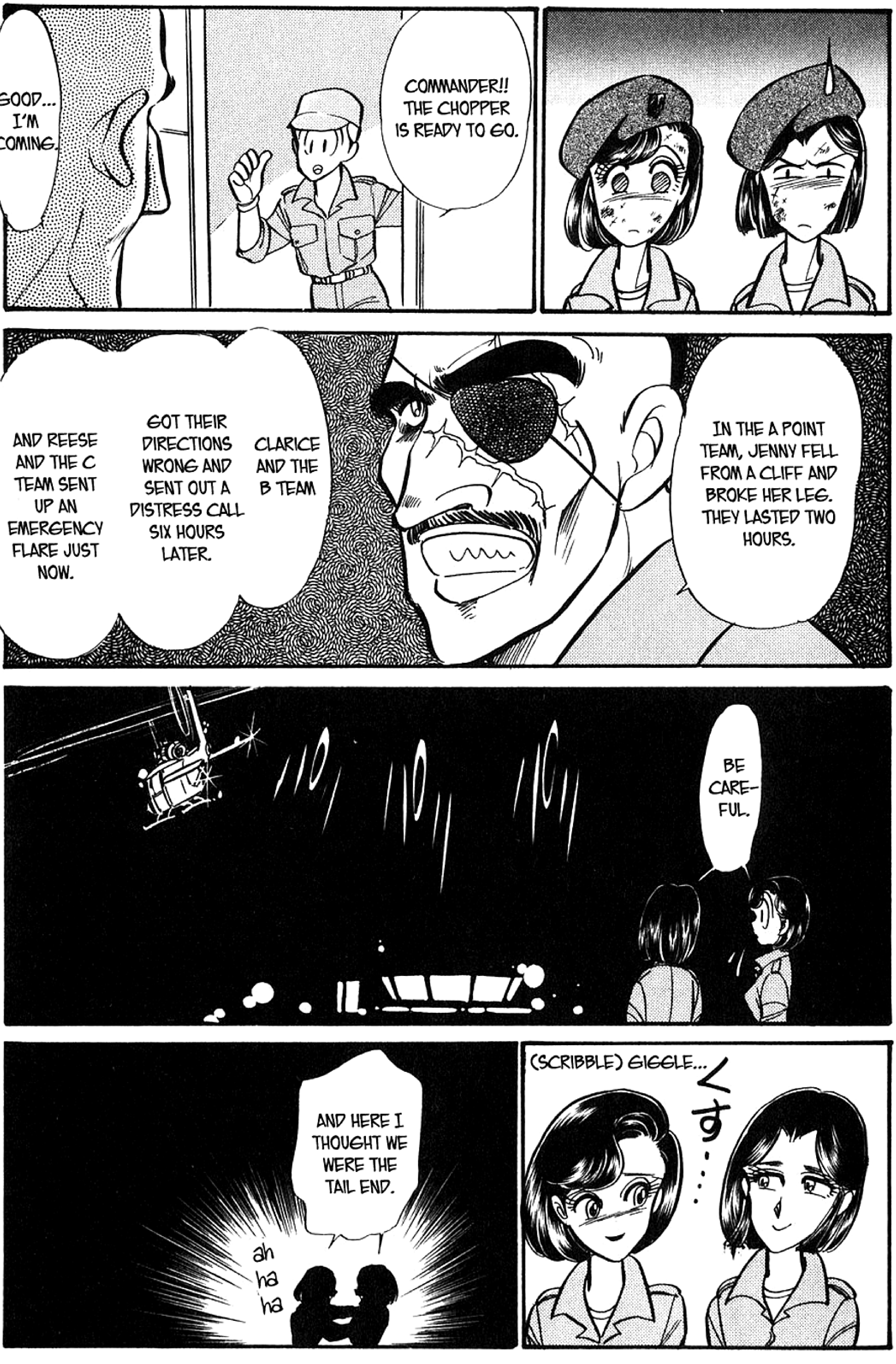

!
...SHEESH...I SUDDENLY GOT WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
THANK YOU. YOU SAVED ME AGAIN.
AS MUCH OF A KLUTZ AS YOU ARE, IT MUST HAVE BEEN A TRIAL FOR YOUR HUSBAND.
OH THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

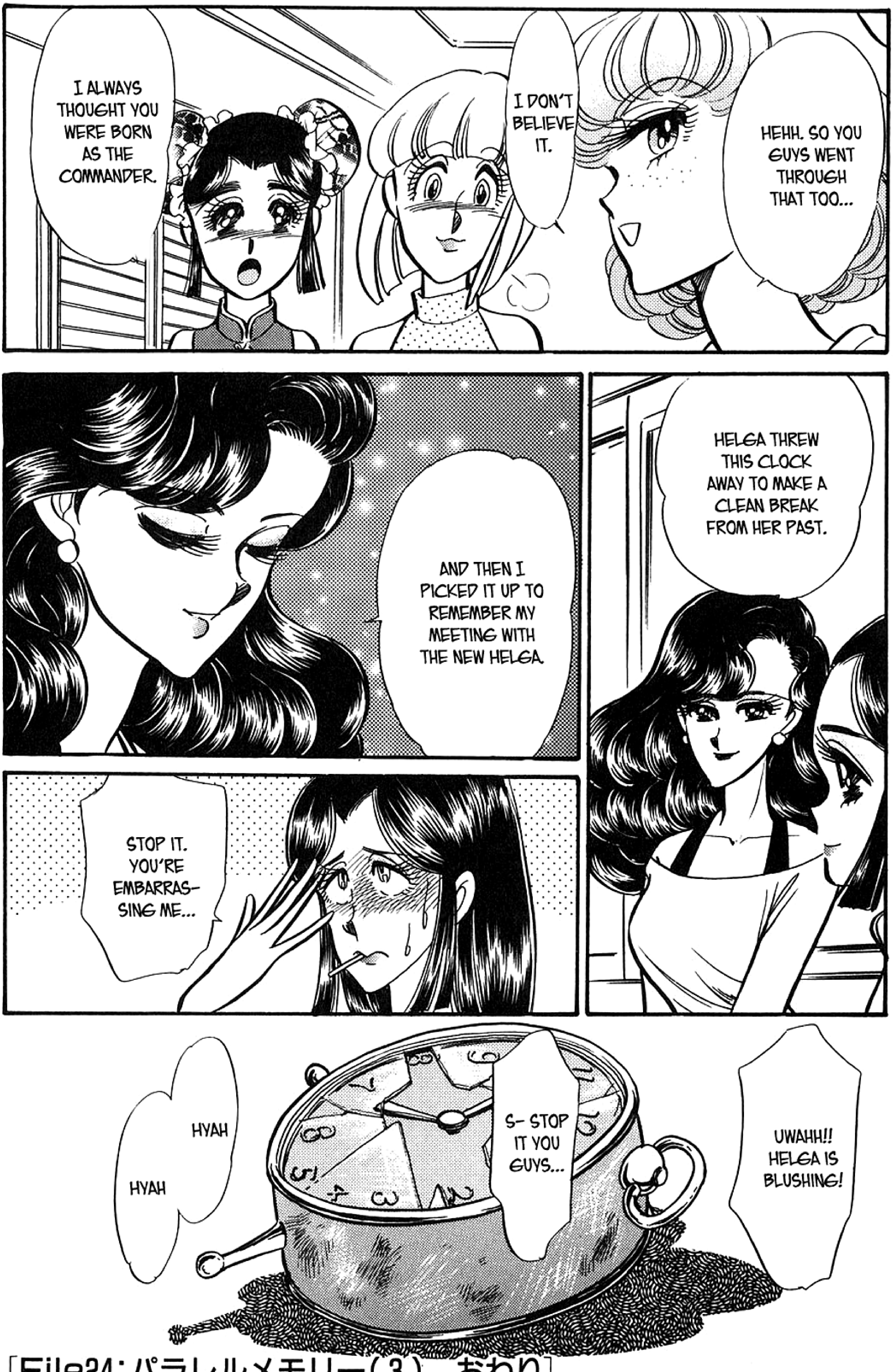

ゴオオオオオ
WE'VE GOT FOUR HOURS LEFT TO COVER TWENTY-FIVE KLICKS...THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL MAKE IT IN THE PRESCRIBED TIME.
MY BACKUP SMOKES ARE IN THE BACKPACK ...
WILL THEY BE OKAY? YOUR BACKPACK GOT SOAKED BACK THERE.
I PUT THEM IN A SMALL PLASTIC CONTAINER. THEY SHOULD BE FINE.
SEE?


HELGA...YOUR PRECIOUS CLOCK...
IT'S RUINED NOW.
I ESCAPED FROM EAST GERMANY... RISKING MY LIFE... ONCE MY CLOTHES WERE REMOVED... THIS IS THE ONLY PERSONAL ITEM I HAD LEFT.
WHEN WE GET BACK TO CAMP
WE'LL SEE IF IT CAN BE REPAIRED.
ガシャ
FORGET ABOUT IT. I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.
......


NOW... LET'S GO.
NO DOUBT WE'LL BE THE LAST STRAGGLERS INTO CAMP.
I JUST HOPE THEY'VE LEFT US SOME SUPPER.
RIGHT
THERE IT IS!! THE LIGHT OF CAMP.

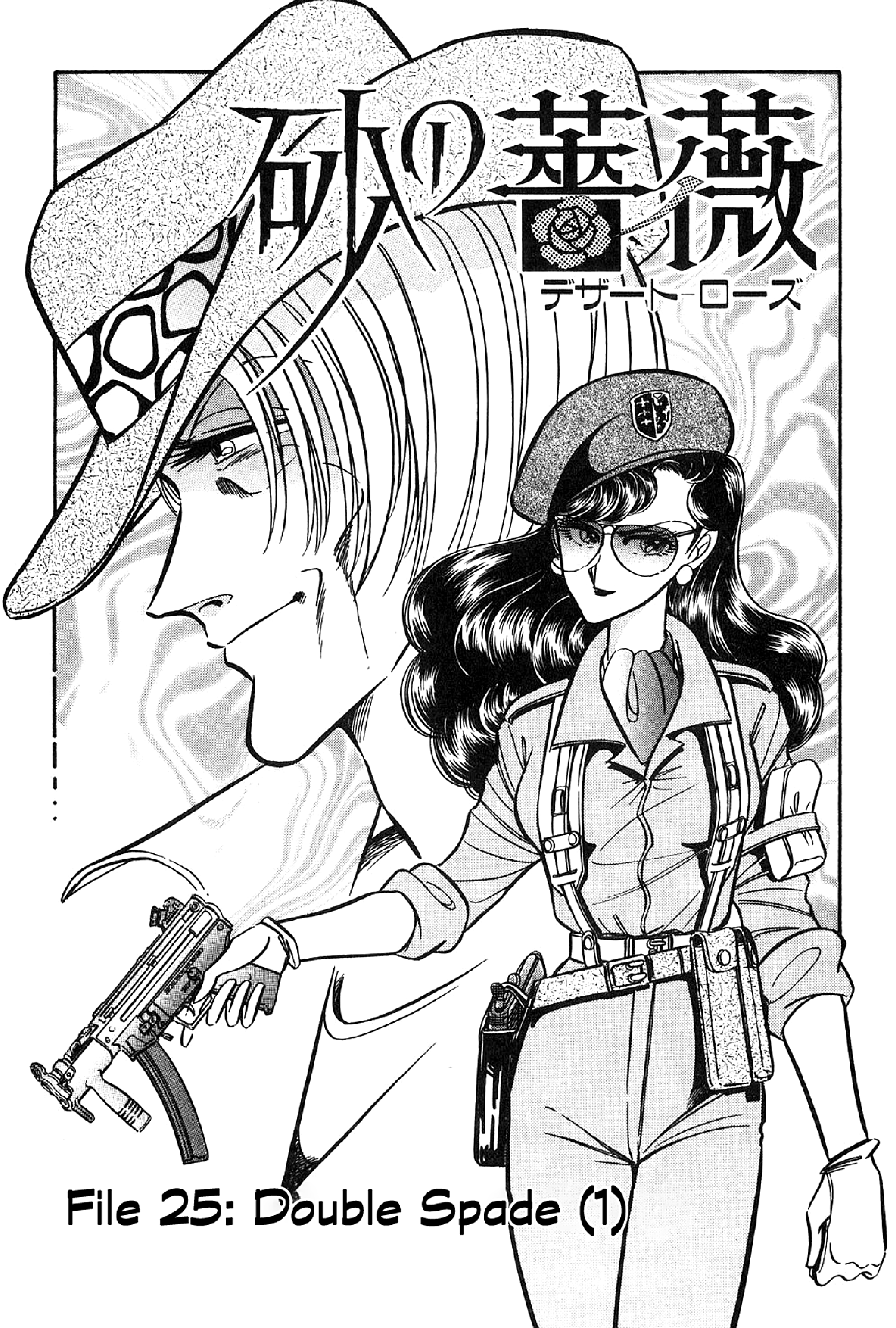

HELGA MITTELMEIER AND MARIE ROSEBANK REPORTING!!
I'M SORRY WE ARE SO LATE.
... SHEESH...
GRUB IS IN THE MESS HALL.
AFTER YOU'VE EATEN, FEEL FREE TO TAKE A SHOWER AND DO AS YOU LIKE.
SO DID WE FAIL?
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?
YOU TWO ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO RETURNED!!


COMMANDER!! THE CHOPPER IS READY TO GO.
GOOD... I'M COMING.
IN THE A POINT TEAM, JENNY FELL FROM A CLIFF AND BROKE HER LEG. THEY LASTED TWO HOURS.
CLARICE AND THE B TEAM
GOT THEIR DIRECTIONS WRONG AND SENT OUT A DISTRESS CALL SIX HOURS LATER.
AND REESE AND THE C TEAM SENT UP AN EMERGENCY FLARE JUST NOW.
BE CAREFUL.
(SCRIBBLE) GIGGLE...
くす...
AND HERE I THOUGHT WE WERE THE TAIL END.
ah ha ha

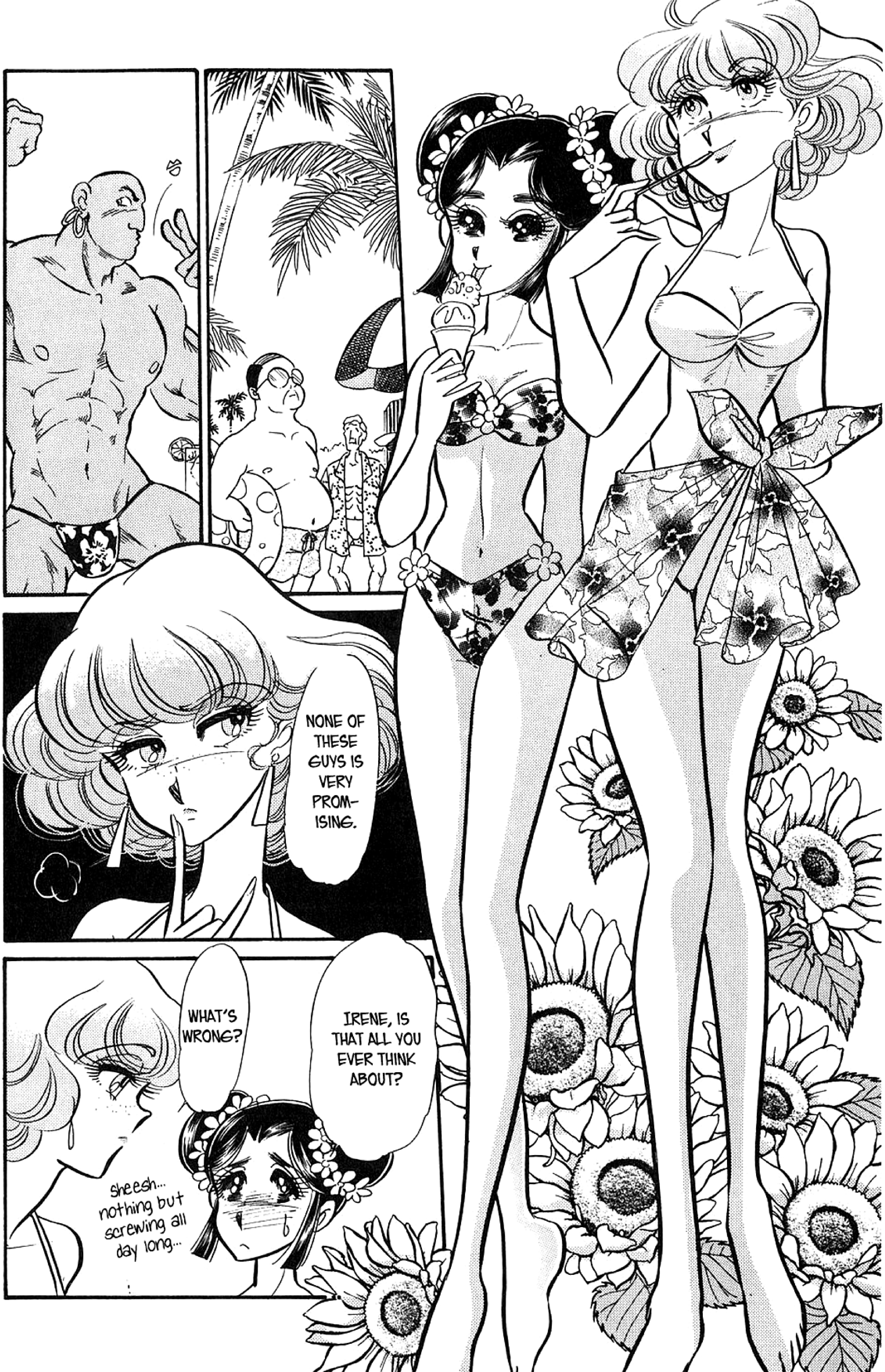

HEHH. SO YOU GUYS WENT THROUGH THAT TOO...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE BORN AS THE COMMANDER.
HELGA THREW THIS CLOCK AWAY TO MAKE A CLEAN BREAK FROM HER PAST.
AND THEN I PICKED IT UP TO REMEMBER MY MEETING WITH THE NEW HELGA.
STOP IT. YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME...
UWAHH!! HELGA IS BLUSHING!
S- STOP IT YOU GUYS...
HYAH
HYAH

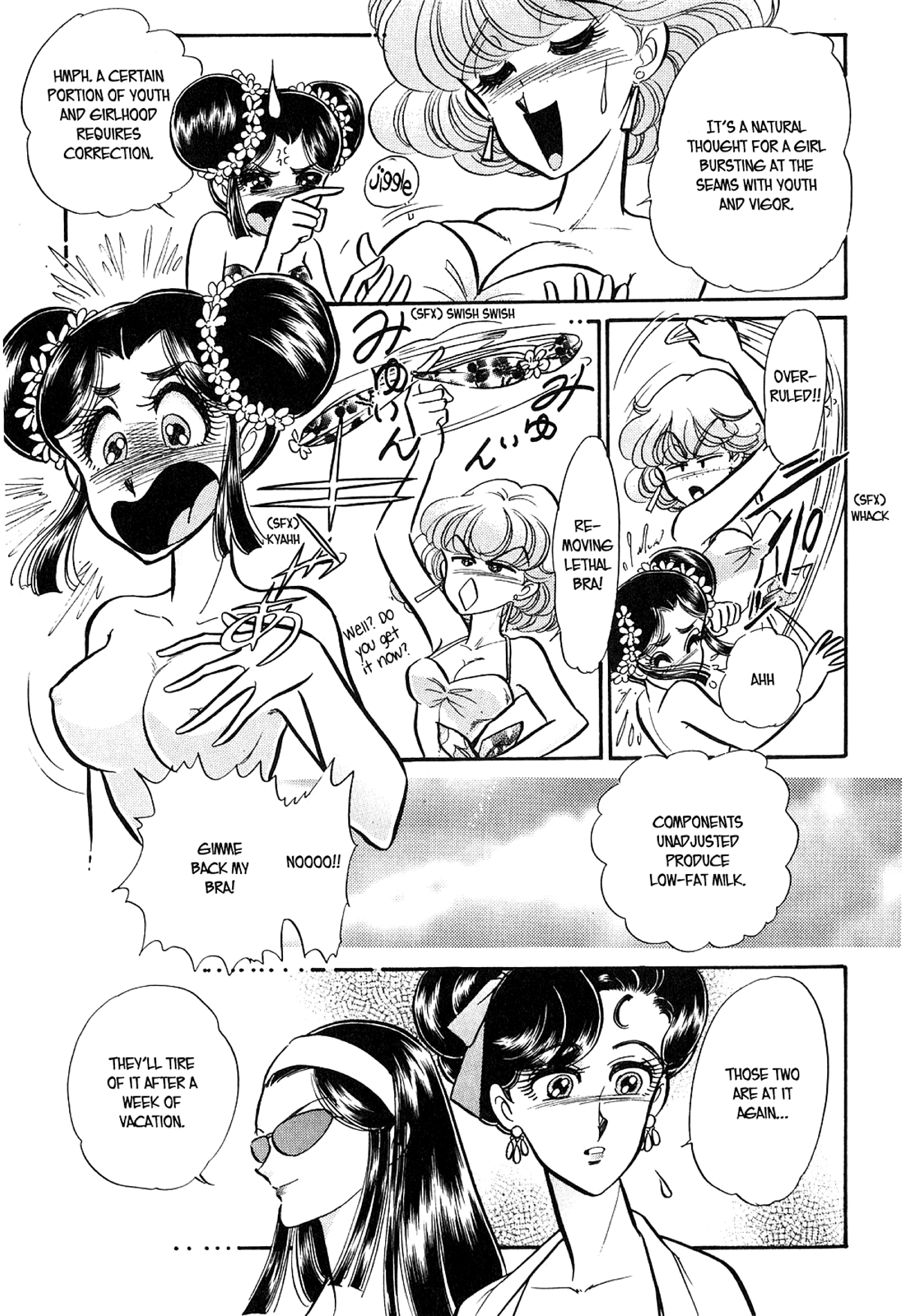
［File24：パラレルメモリー（3）　おわり］

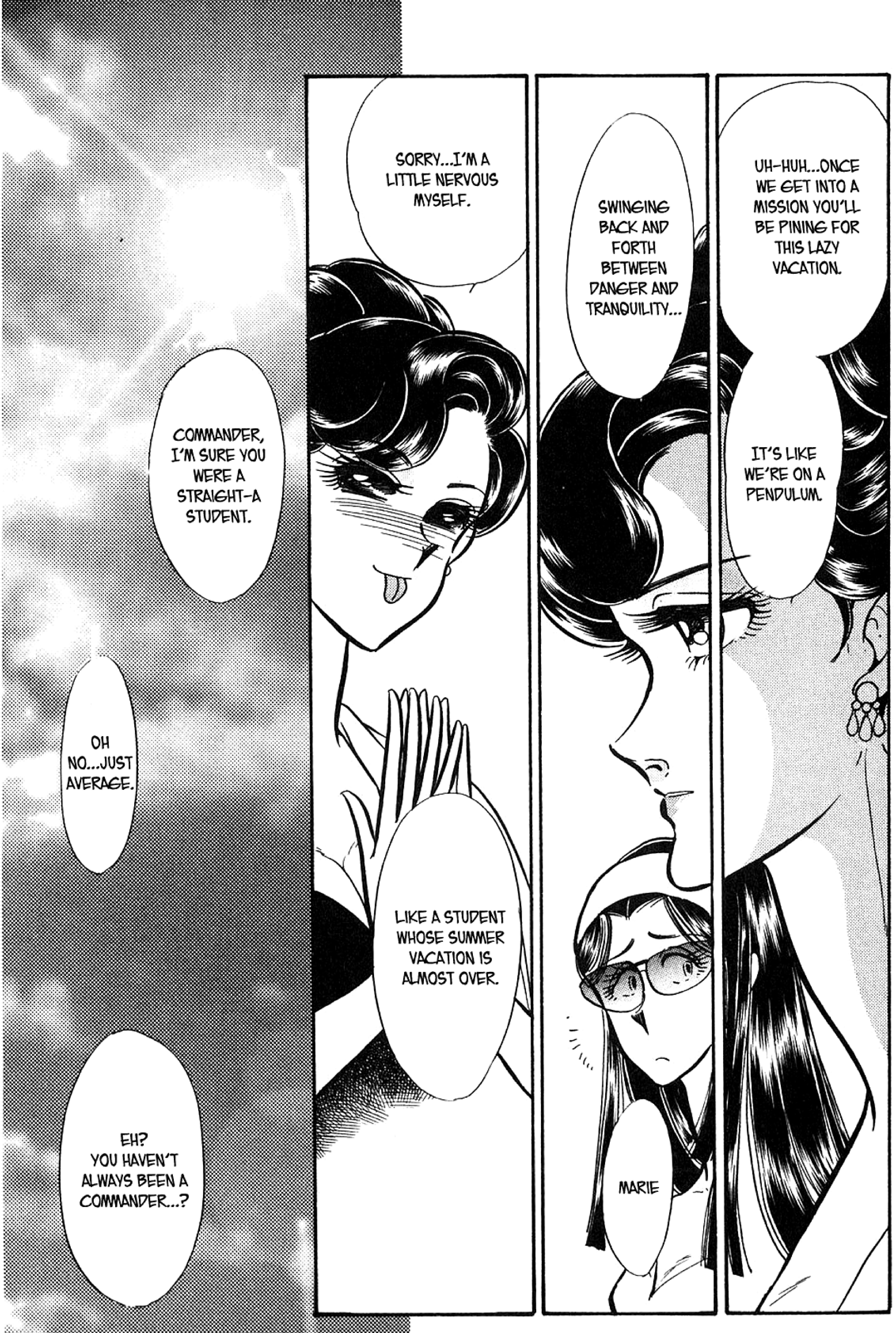
File:25 Double Spade

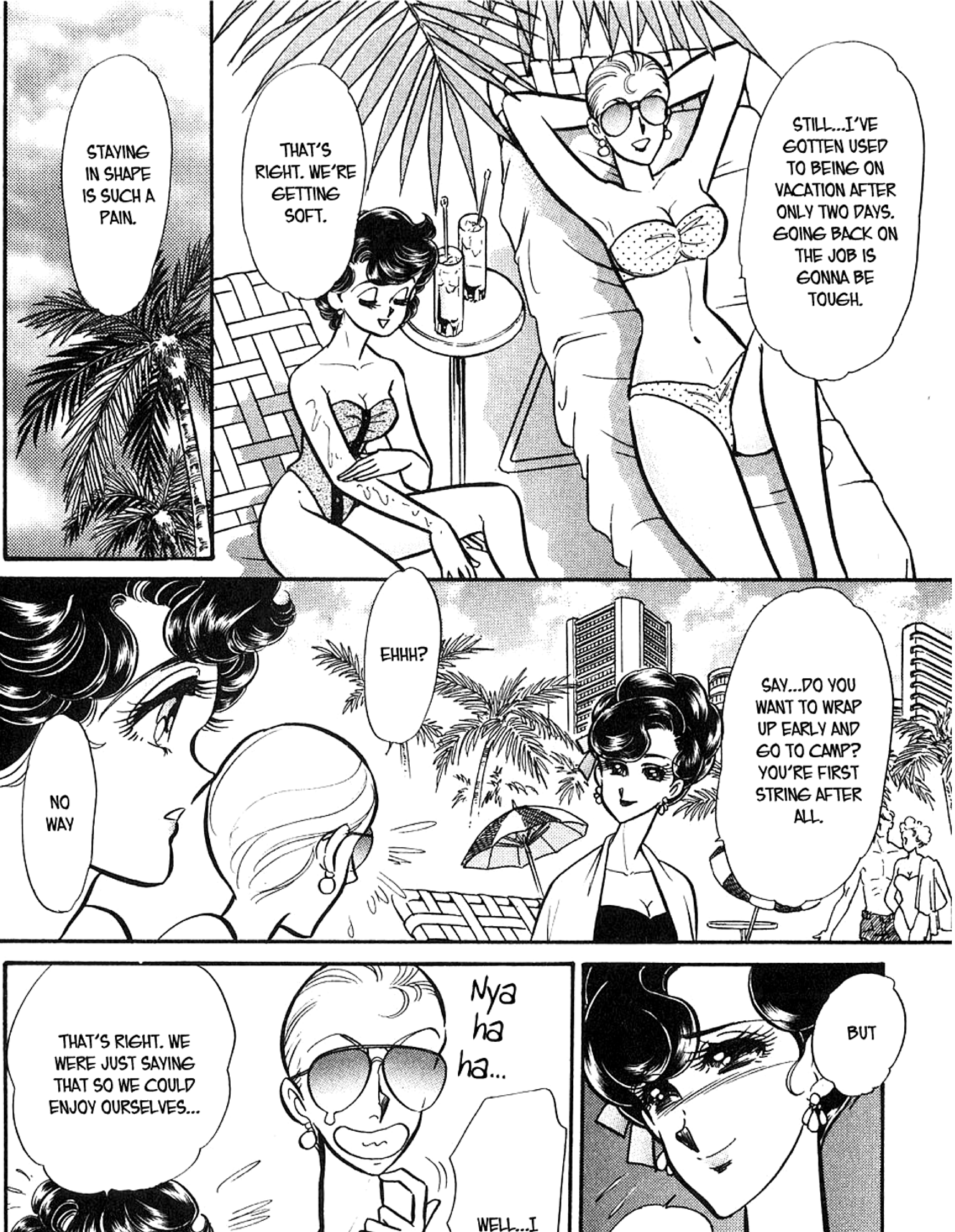

砂の薔薇
デザート・ローズ

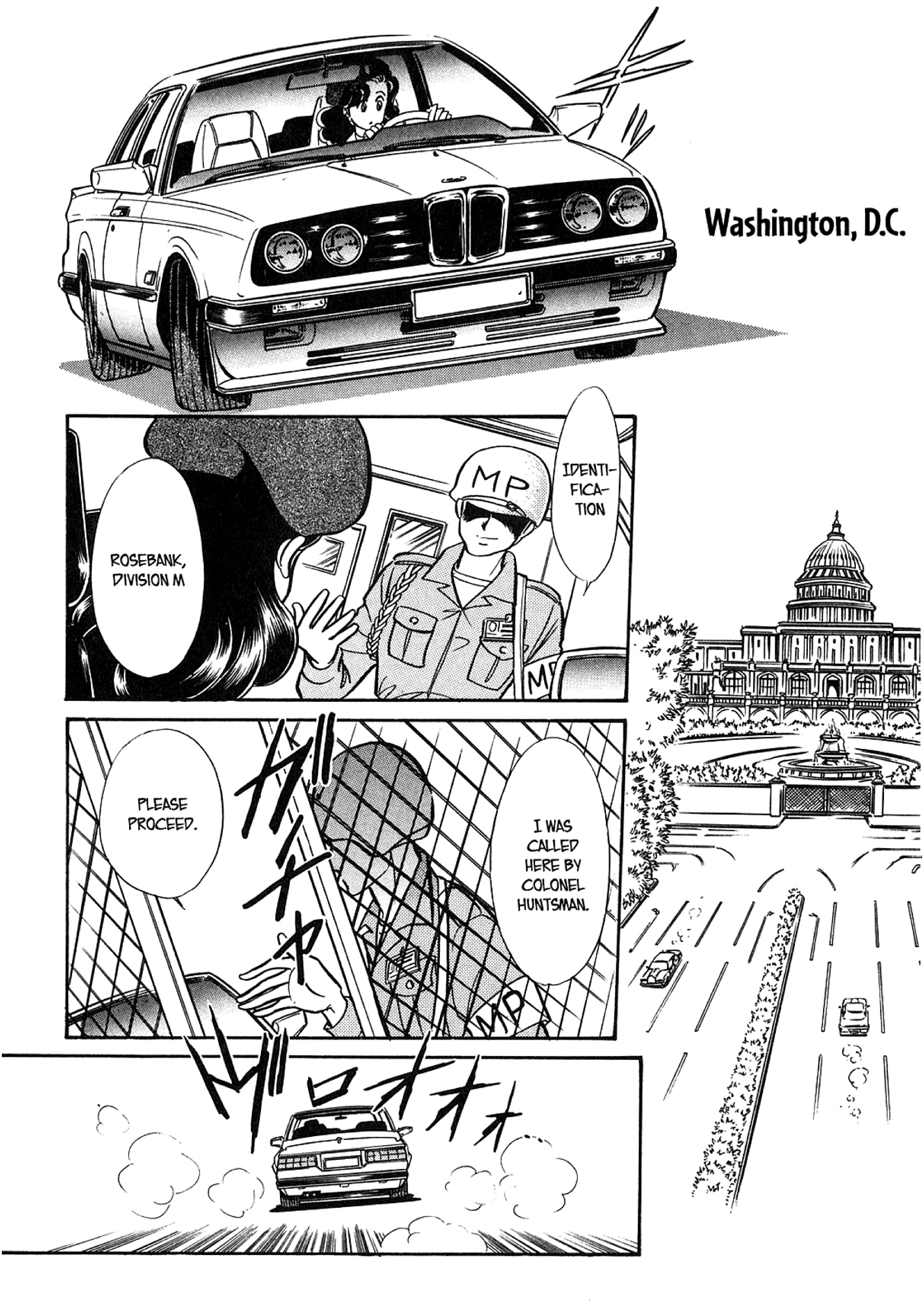
File 25: Double Spade (1)

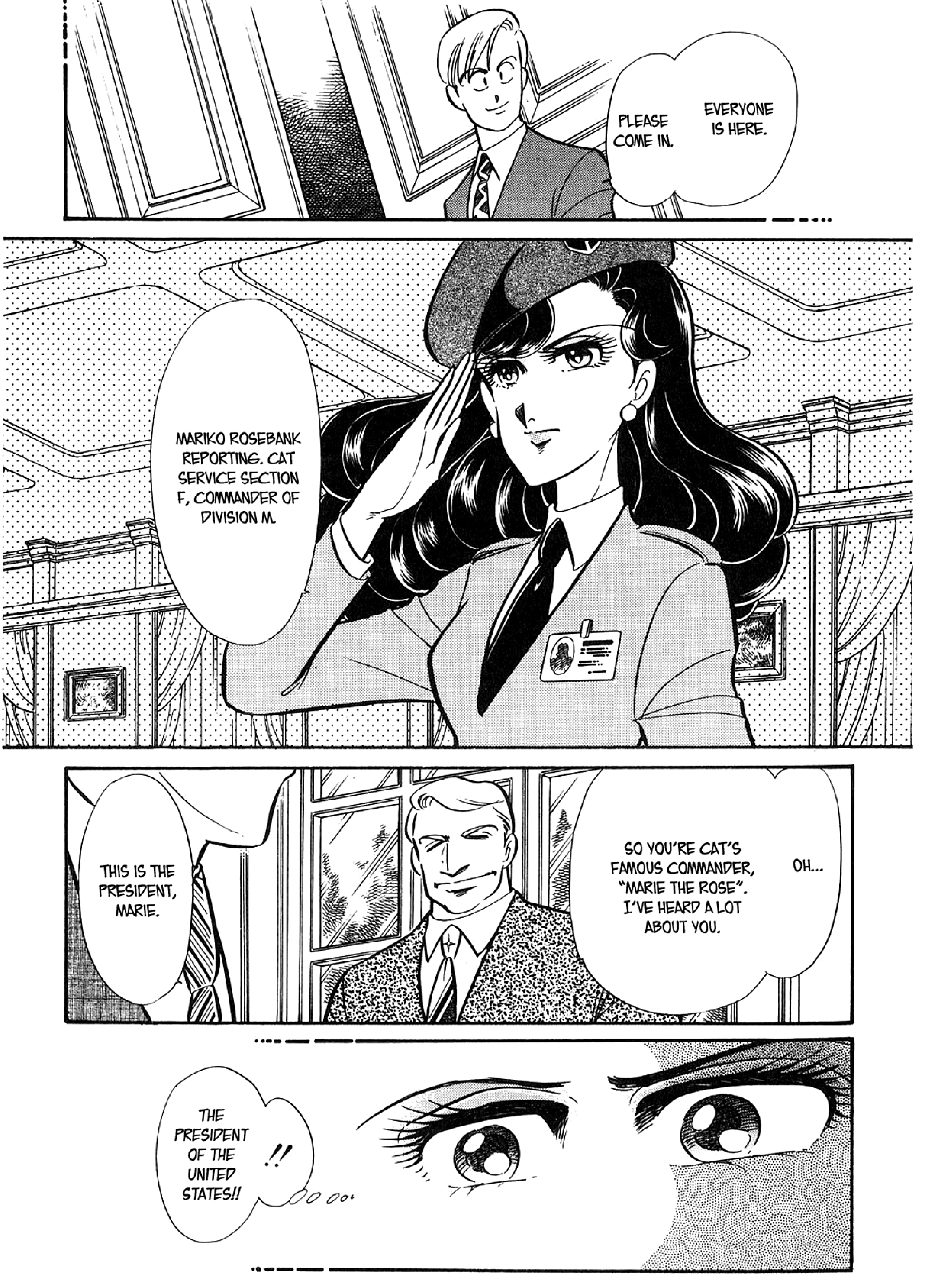

NONE OF THESE GUYS IS VERY PROMISING.
IRENE, IS THAT ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
sheesh... nothing but screwing all day long...

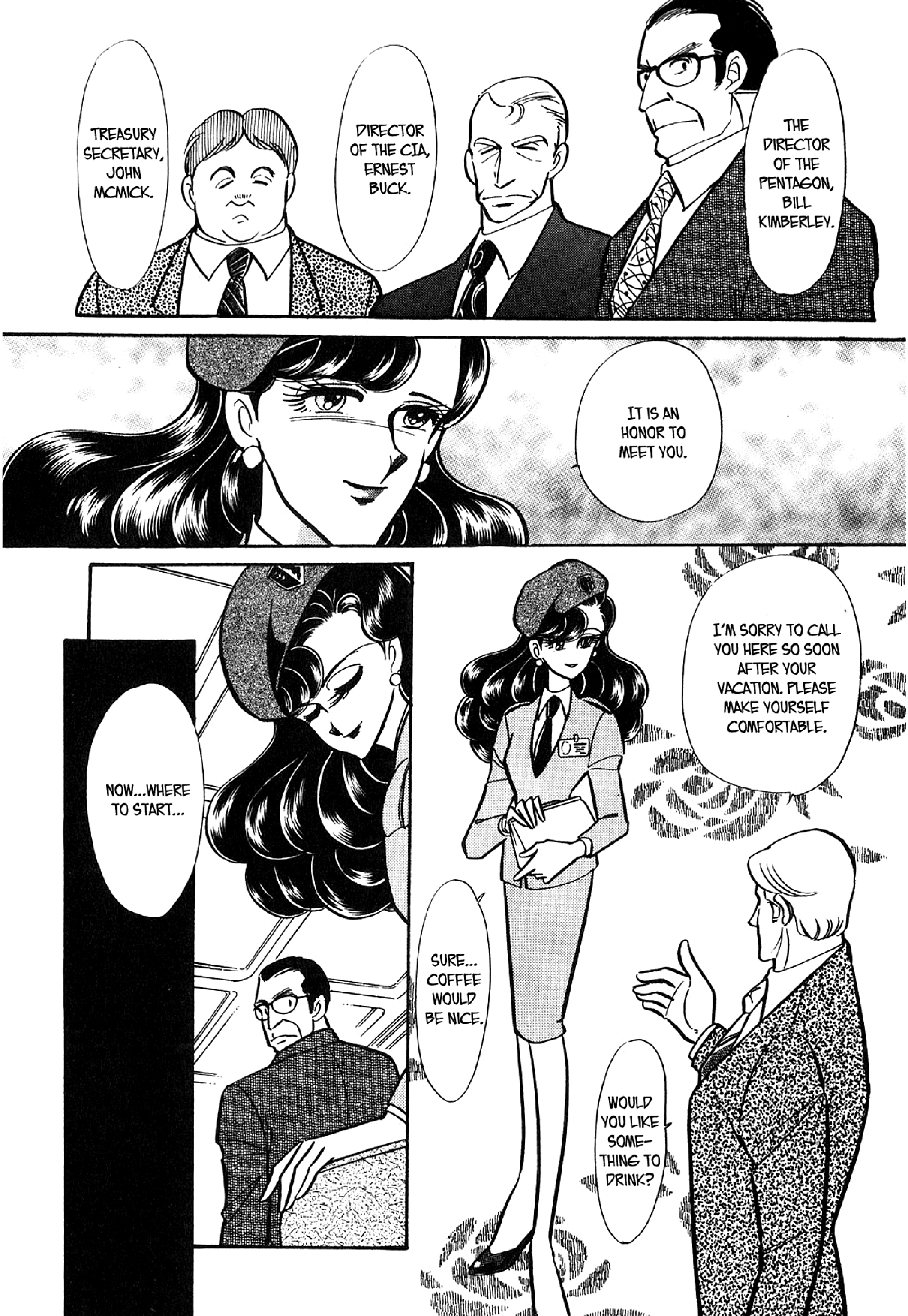

IT'S A NATURAL THOUGHT FOR A GIRL BURSTING AT THE SEAMS WITH YOUTH AND VIGOR.
jiggle
HMPH. A CERTAIN PORTION OF YOUTH AND GIRLHOOD REQUIRES CORRECTION.
OVER-RULED!!
(SFX) WHACK
AHH
(SFX) SWISH SWISH
RE-MOVING LETHAL BRA!
Well? Do you get it now?
(SFX) KYAHH
COMPONENTS UNADJUSTED PRODUCE LOW-FAT MILK.
NOOOO!!
GIMME BACK MY BRA!
THOSE TWO ARE AT IT AGAIN...
THEY'LL TIRE OF IT AFTER A WEEK OF VACATION.

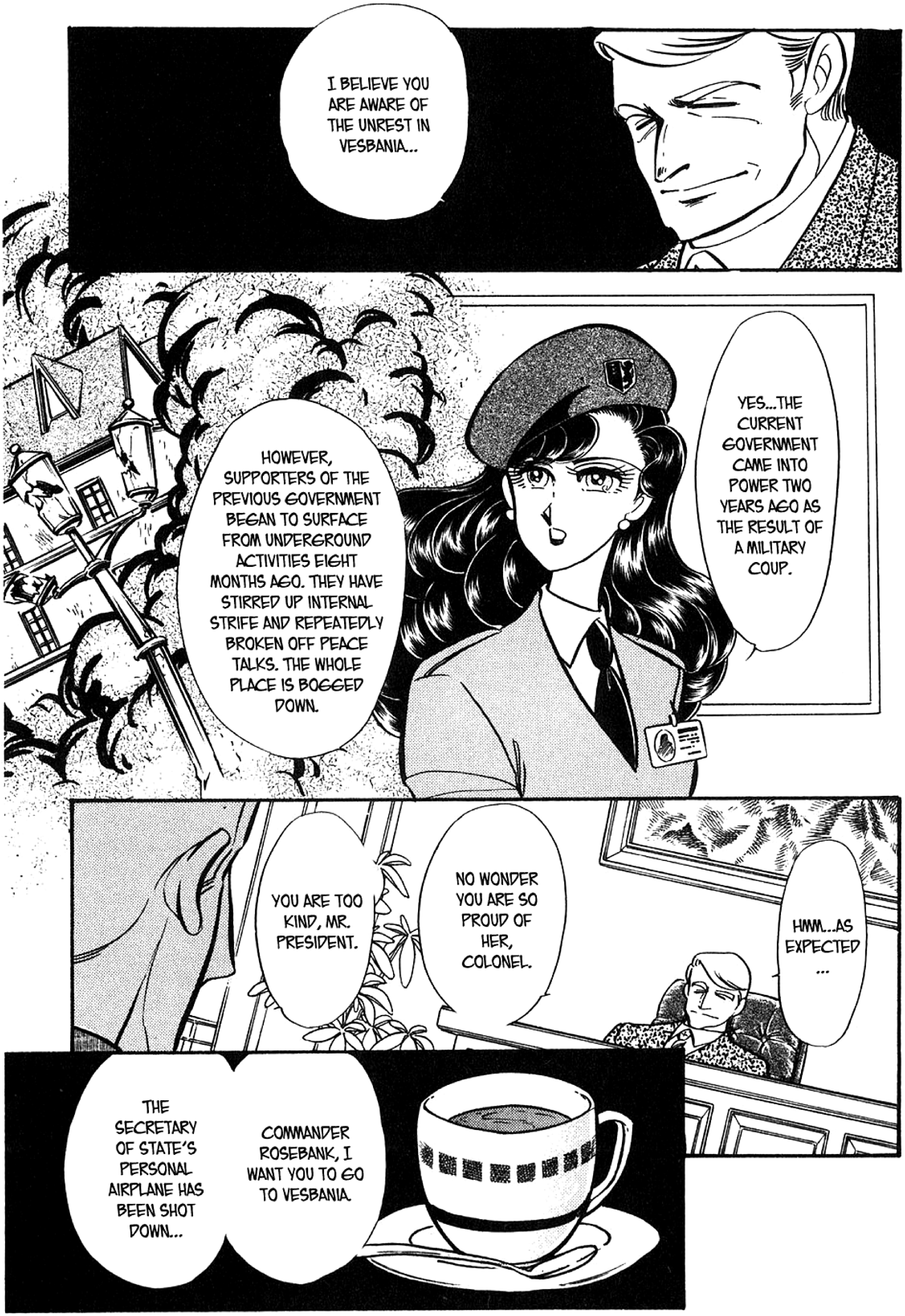

UH-HUH...ONCE WE GET INTO A MISSION YOU'LL BE PINING FOR THIS LAZY VACATION.
IT'S LIKE WE'RE ON A PENDULUM.
SWINGING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN DANGER AND TRANQUILITY...
MARIE
SORRY...I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS MYSELF.
LIKE A STUDENT WHOSE SUMMER VACATION IS ALMOST OVER.
COMMANDER, I'M SURE YOU WERE A STRAIGHT-A STUDENT.
OH NO...JUST AVERAGE.
EH? YOU HAVEN'T ALWAYS BEEN A COMMANDER...?

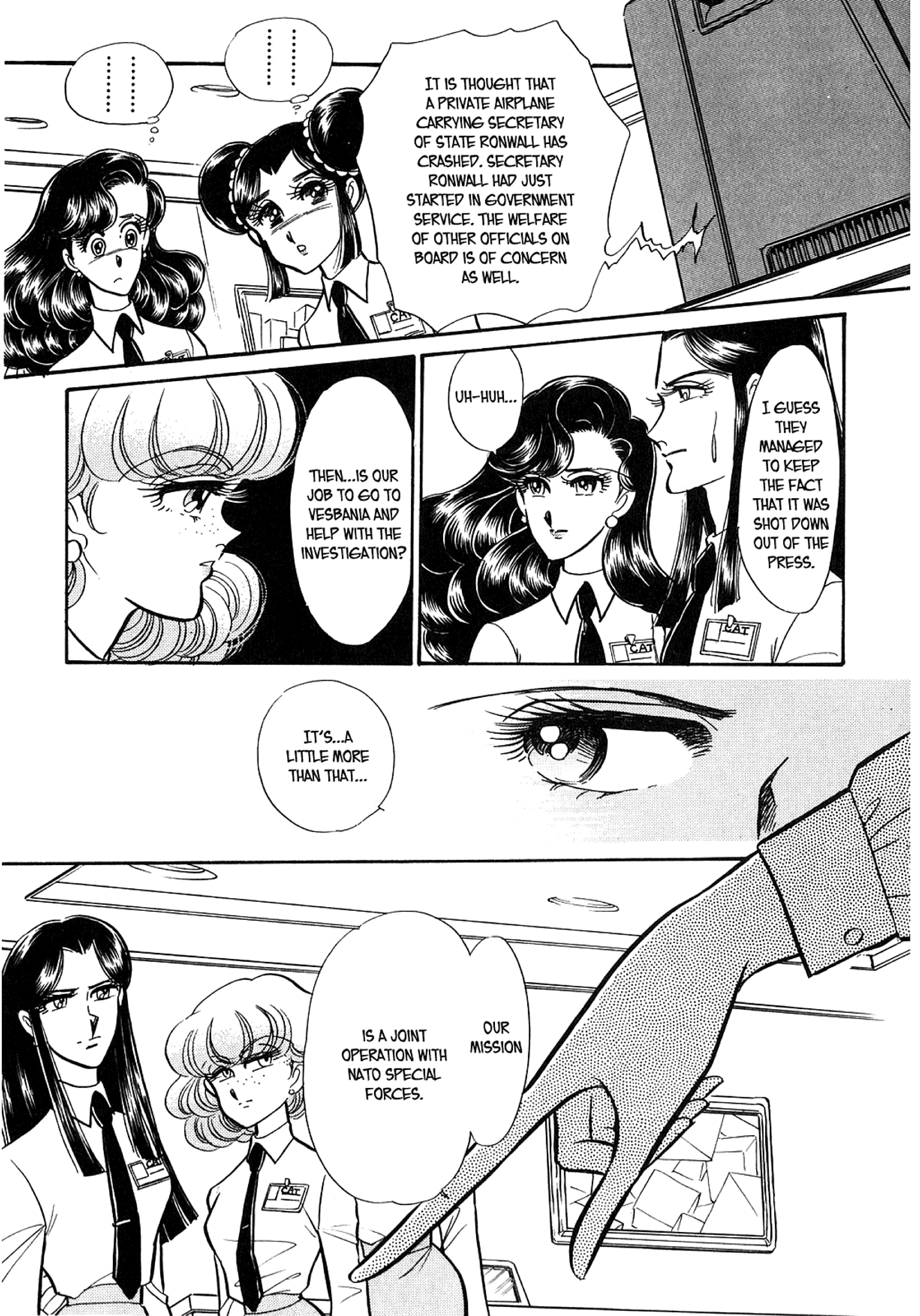

STILL...I'VE GOTTEN USED TO BEING ON VACATION AFTER ONLY TWO DAYS. GOING BACK ON THE JOB IS GONNA BE TOUGH.
THAT'S RIGHT. WE'RE GETTING SOFT.
STAYING IN SHAPE IS SUCH A PAIN.
SAY...DO YOU WANT TO WRAP UP EARLY AND GO TO CAMP? YOU'RE FIRST STRING AFTER ALL.
EHHH?
NO WAY
BUT
YOU'RE BORED AND GETTING OUT OF SHAPE.
Nya ha ha...
WELL...I DID SAY THAT...
THAT'S RIGHT. WE WERE JUST SAYING THAT SO WE COULD ENJOY OURSELVES...

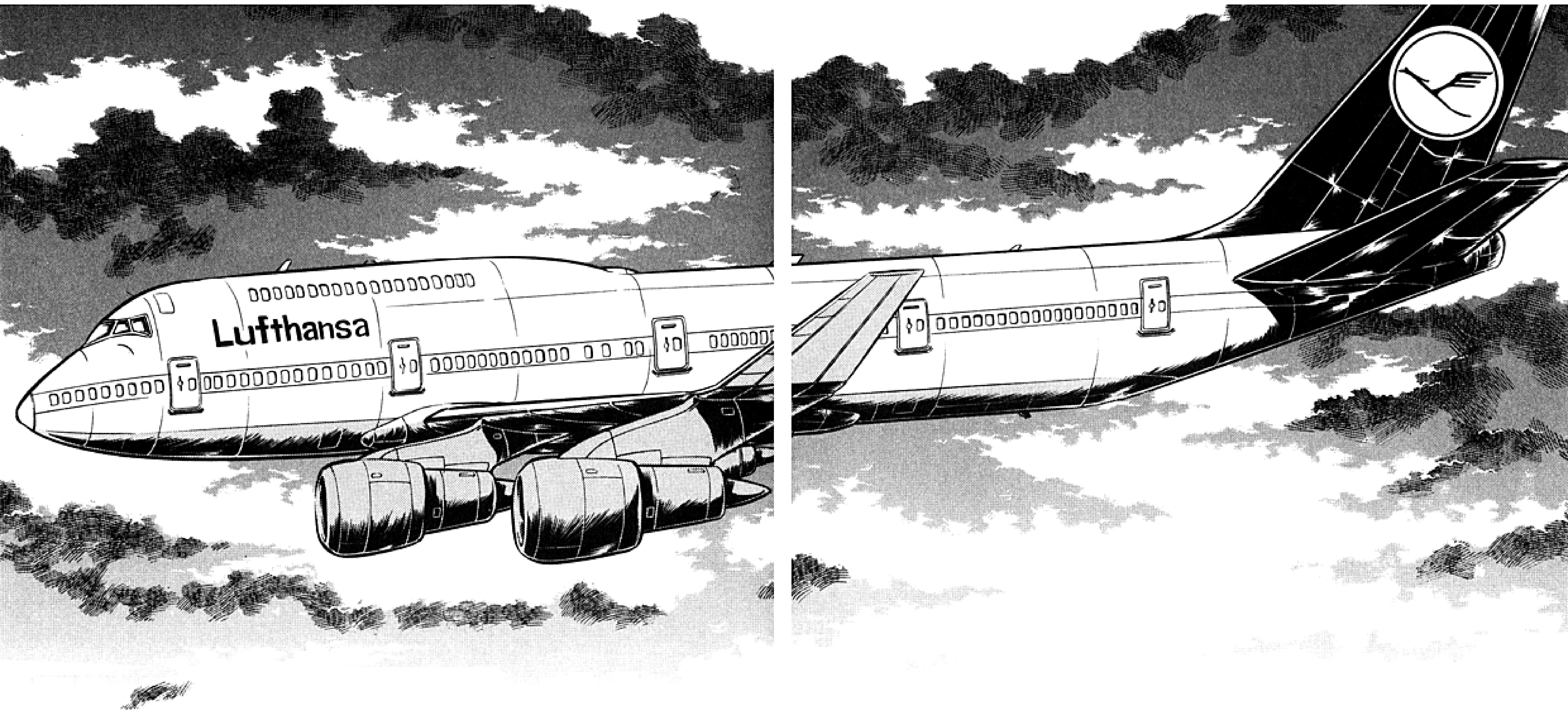

Washington, D.C.
IDENTIFICATION
ROSEBANK, DIVISION M
I WAS CALLED HERE BY COLONEL HUNTSMAN.
PLEASE PROCEED.
ガチャ
ドゥロオオオ…

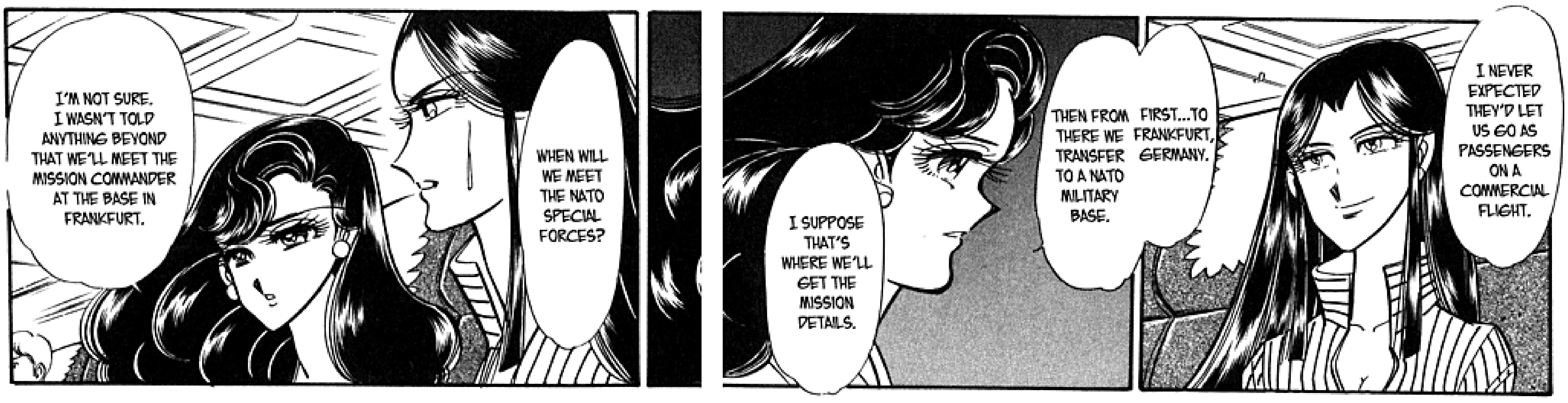

EVERYONE IS HERE.
PLEASE COME IN.
MARIKO ROSEBANK REPORTING. CAT SERVICE SECTION F, COMMANDER OF DIVISION M.
OH...
SO YOU'RE CAT'S FAMOUS COMMANDER, "MARIE THE ROSE". I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU.
THIS IS THE PRESIDENT, MARIE.
!!
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES!!

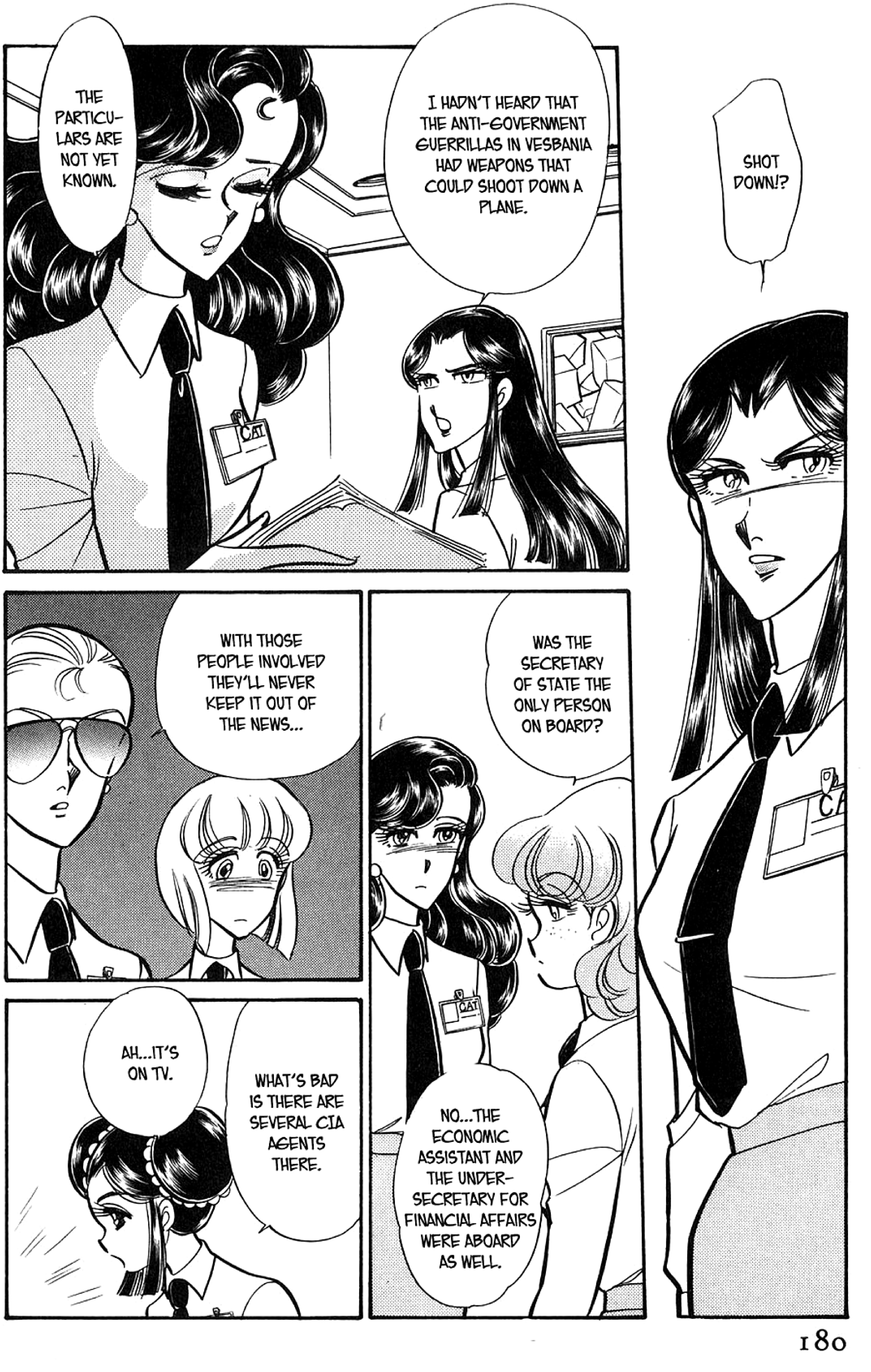

THE DIRECTOR OF THE PENTAGON, BILL KIMBERLEY.
DIRECTOR OF THE CIA, ERNEST BUCK.
TREASURY SECRETARY, JOHN MCMICK.
IT IS AN HONOR TO MEET YOU.
I'M SORRY TO CALL YOU HERE SO SOON AFTER YOUR VACATION. PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO DRINK?
SURE... COFFEE WOULD BE NICE.
NOW...WHERE TO START...

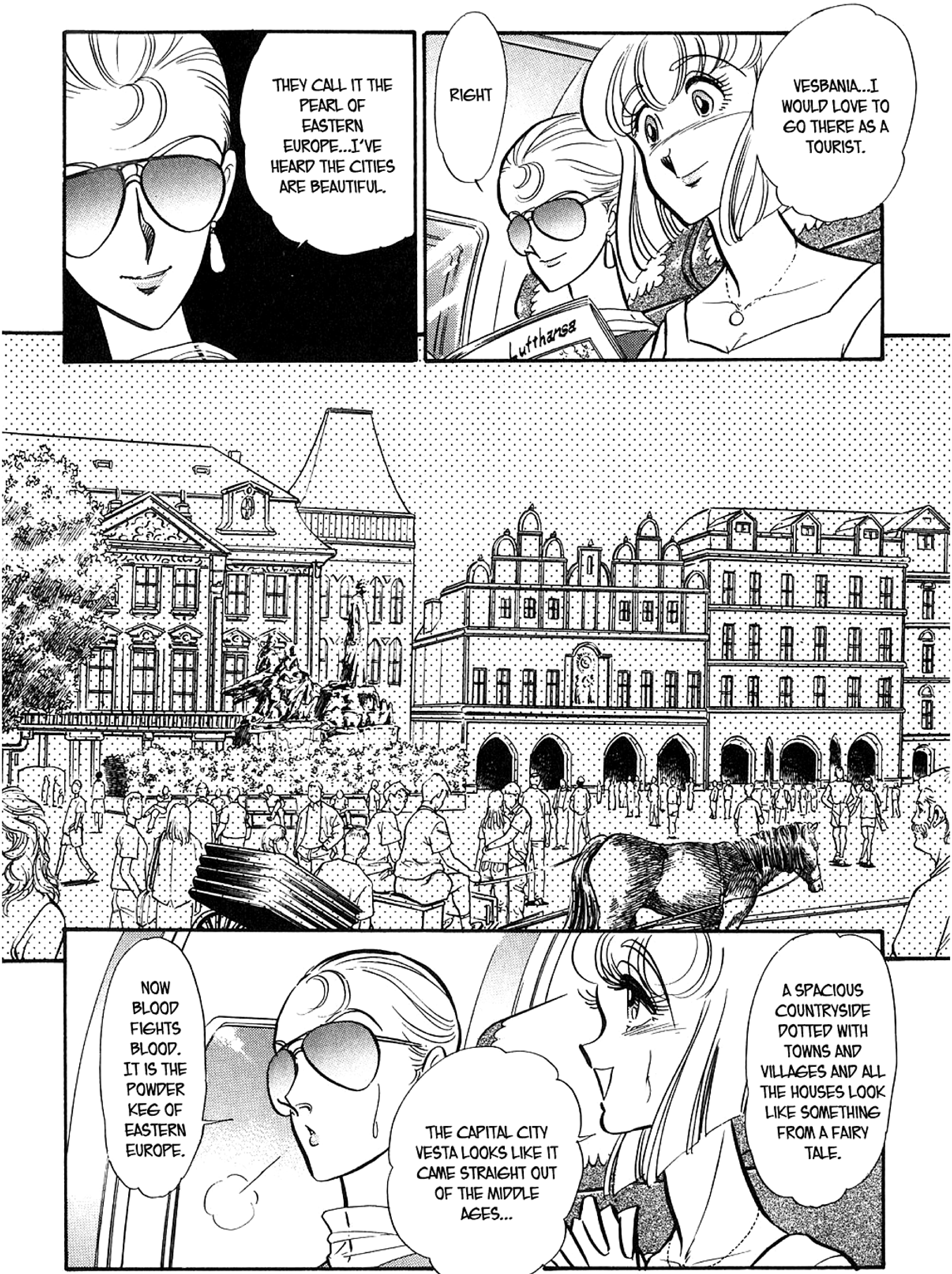

I BELIEVE YOU ARE AWARE OF THE UNREST IN VESBANIA...
YES...THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT CAME INTO POWER TWO YEARS AGO AS THE RESULT OF A MILITARY COUP.
HOWEVER, SUPPORTERS OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT BEGAN TO SURFACE FROM UNDERGROUND ACTIVITIES EIGHT MONTHS AGO. THEY HAVE STIRRED UP INTERNAL STRIFE AND REPEATEDLY BROKEN OFF PEACE TALKS. THE WHOLE PLACE IS BOGGED DOWN.
HMM...AS EXPECTED...
NO WONDER YOU ARE SO PROUD OF HER, COLONEL.
YOU ARE TOO KIND, MR. PRESIDENT.
COMMANDER ROSEBANK, I WANT YOU TO GO TO VESBANIA.
THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S PERSONAL AIRPLANE HAS BEEN SHOT DOWN...

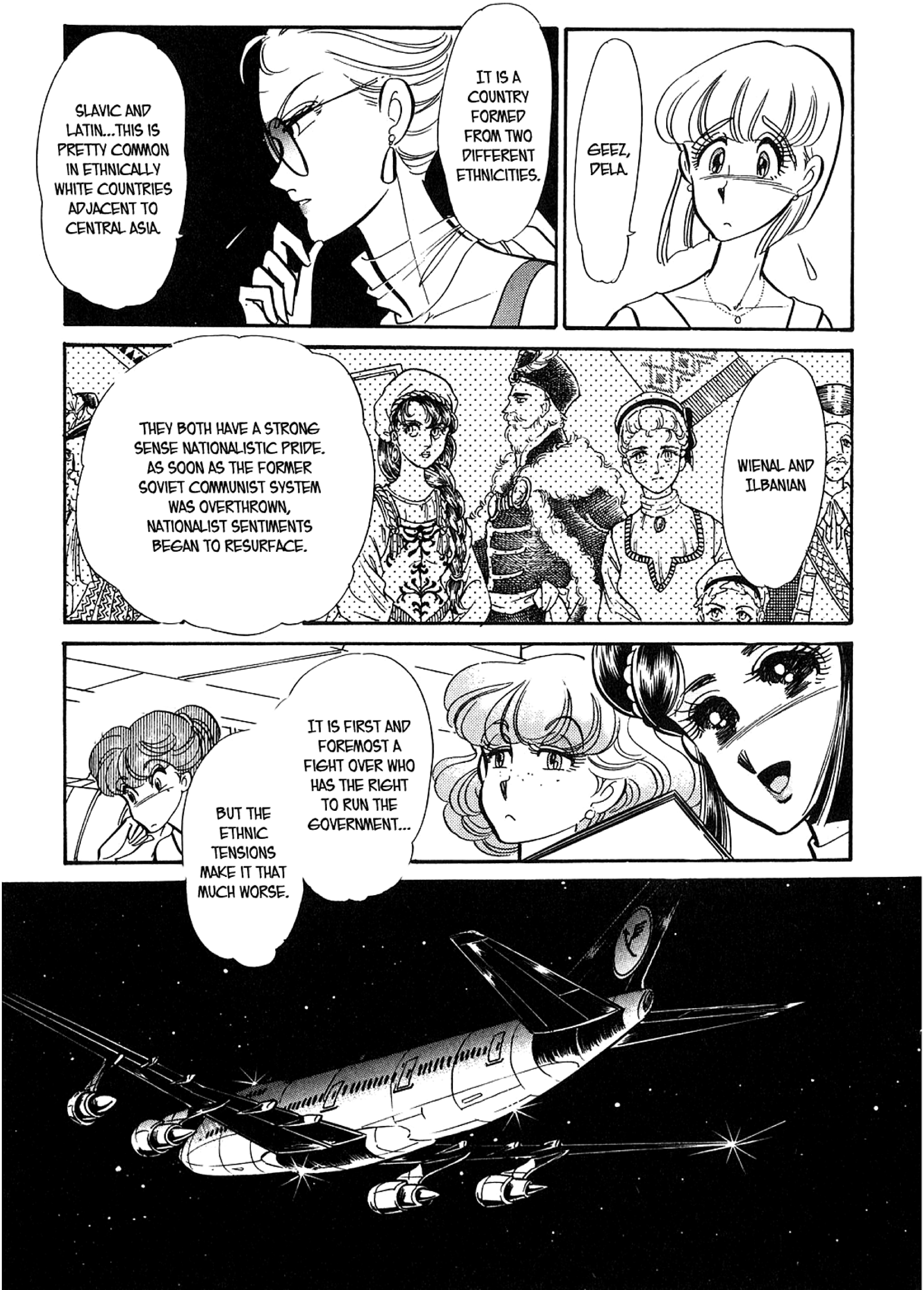

IT IS THOUGHT THAT A PRIVATE AIRPLANE CARRYING SECRETARY OF STATE RONWALL HAS CRASHED. SECRETARY RONWALL HAD JUST STARTED IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE. THE WELFARE OF OTHER OFFICIALS ON BOARD IS OF CONCERN AS WELL.
......
......
I GUESS THEY MANAGED TO KEEP THE FACT THAT IT WAS SHOT DOWN OUT OF THE PRESS.
UH-HUH...
THEN...IS OUR JOB TO GO TO VESBANIA AND HELP WITH THE INVESTIGATION?
IT'S...A LITTLE MORE THAN THAT...
OUR MISSION
IS A JOINT OPERATION WITH NATO SPECIAL FORCES.

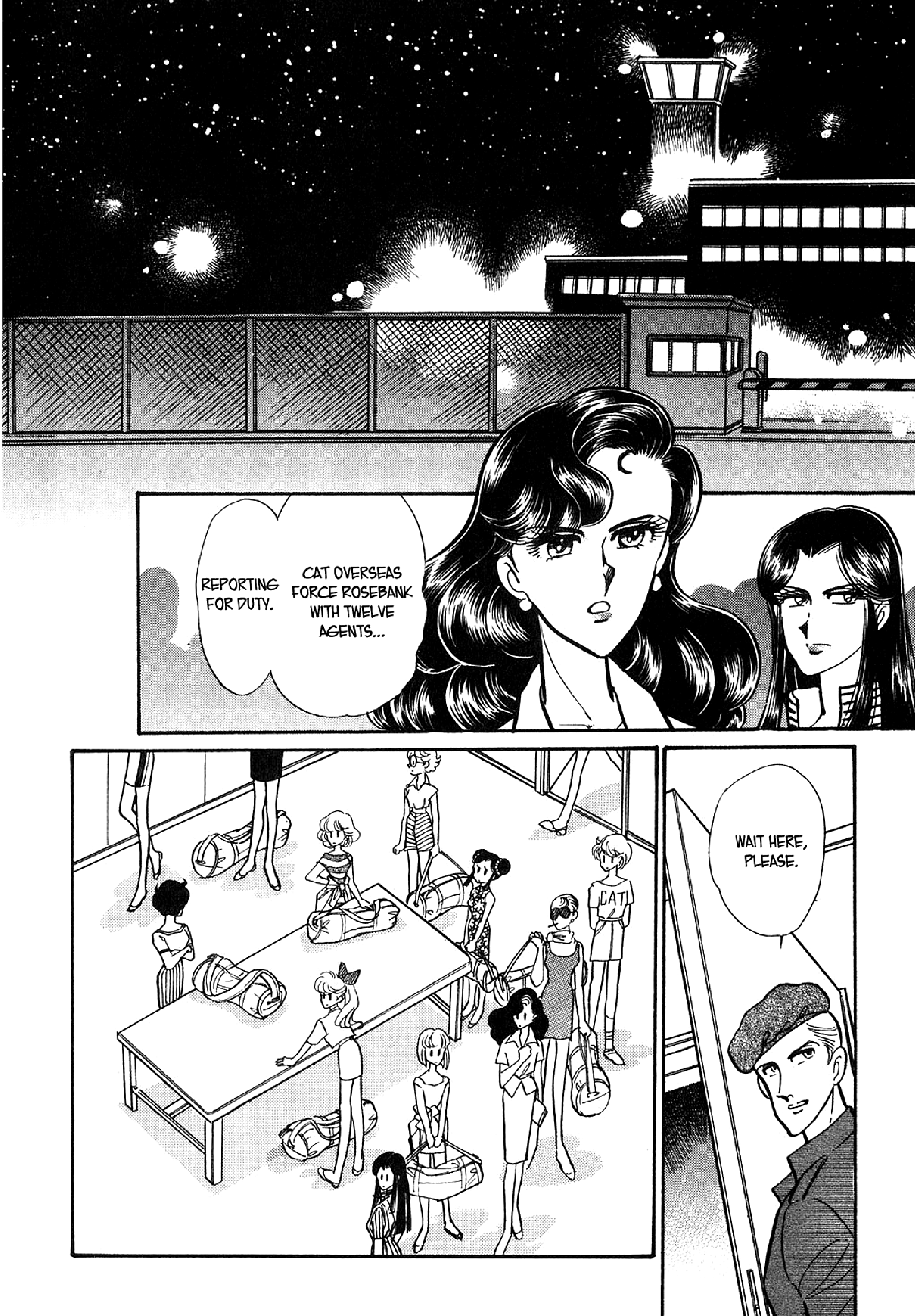

Lufthansa

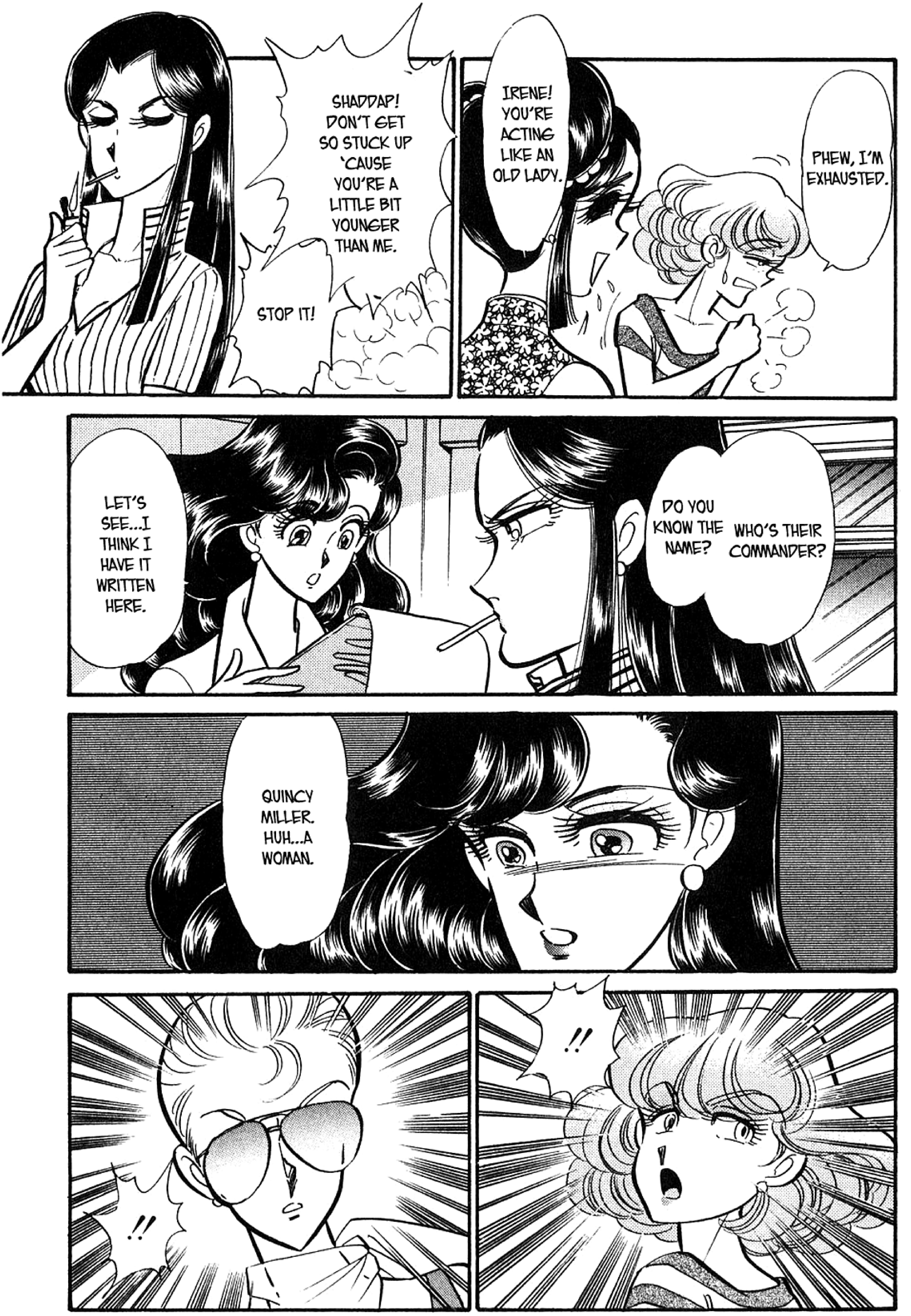

I NEVER EXPECTED THEY'D LET US GO AS PASSENGERS ON A COMMERCIAL FLIGHT.
FIRST...TO FRANKFURT, GERMANY.
THEN FROM THERE WE TRANSFER TO A NATO MILITARY BASE.
I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHERE WE'LL GET THE MISSION DETAILS.
WHEN WILL WE MEET THE NATO SPECIAL FORCES?
I'M NOT SURE. I WASN'T TOLD ANYTHING BEYOND THAT WE'LL MEET THE MISSION COMMANDER AT THE BASE IN FRANKFURT.

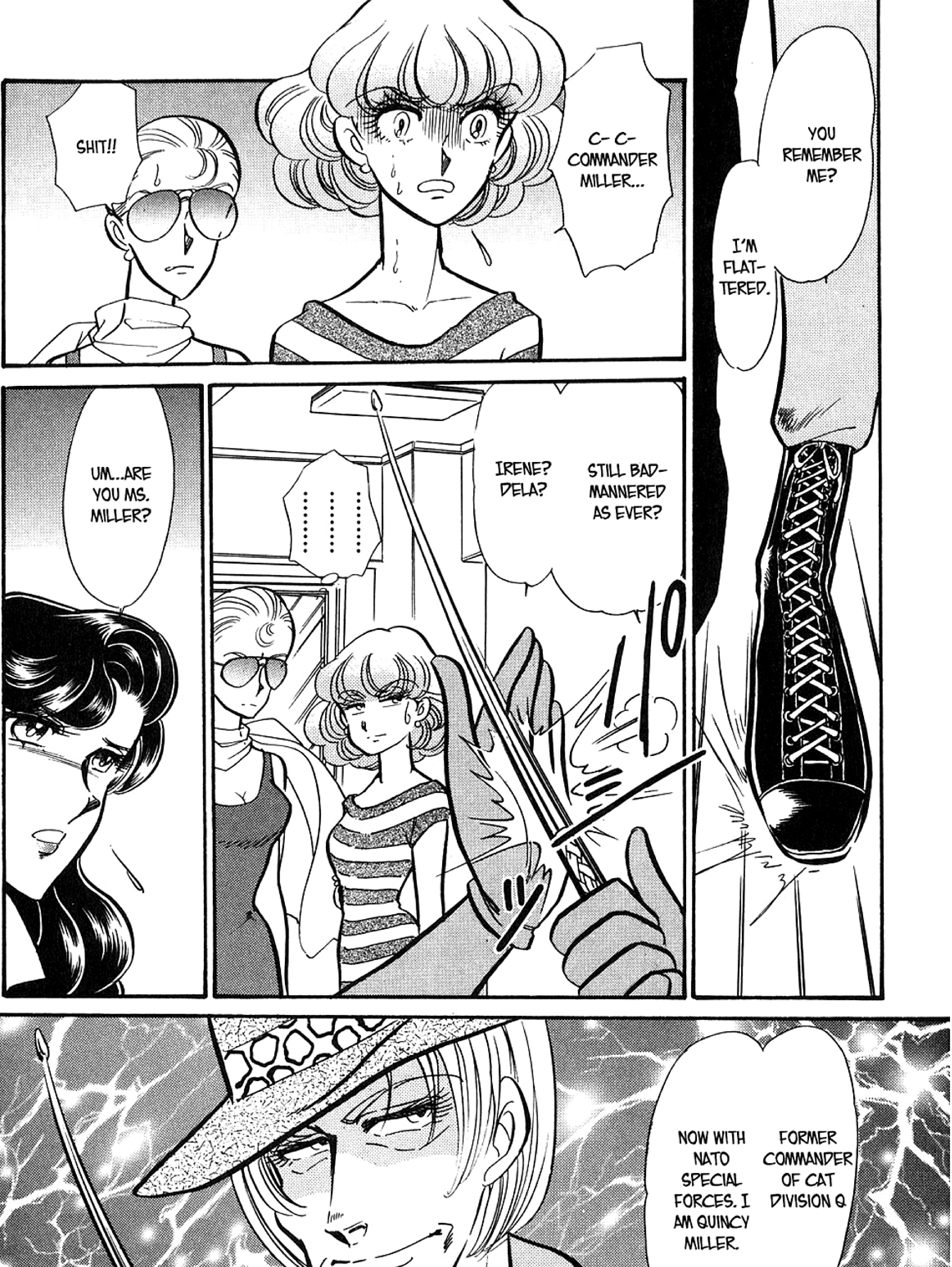

SHOT DOWN!?
I HADN'T HEARD THAT THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT GUERRILLAS IN VESBANIA HAD WEAPONS THAT COULD SHOOT DOWN A PLANE.
THE PARTICULARS ARE NOT YET KNOWN.
CAT
WAS THE SECRETARY OF STATE THE ONLY PERSON ON BOARD?
NO...THE ECONOMIC ASSISTANT AND THE UNDER-SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL AFFAIRS WERE ABOARD AS WELL.
WITH THOSE PEOPLE INVOLVED THEY'LL NEVER KEEP IT OUT OF THE NEWS...
WHAT'S BAD IS THERE ARE SEVERAL CIA AGENTS THERE.
AH...IT'S ON TV.

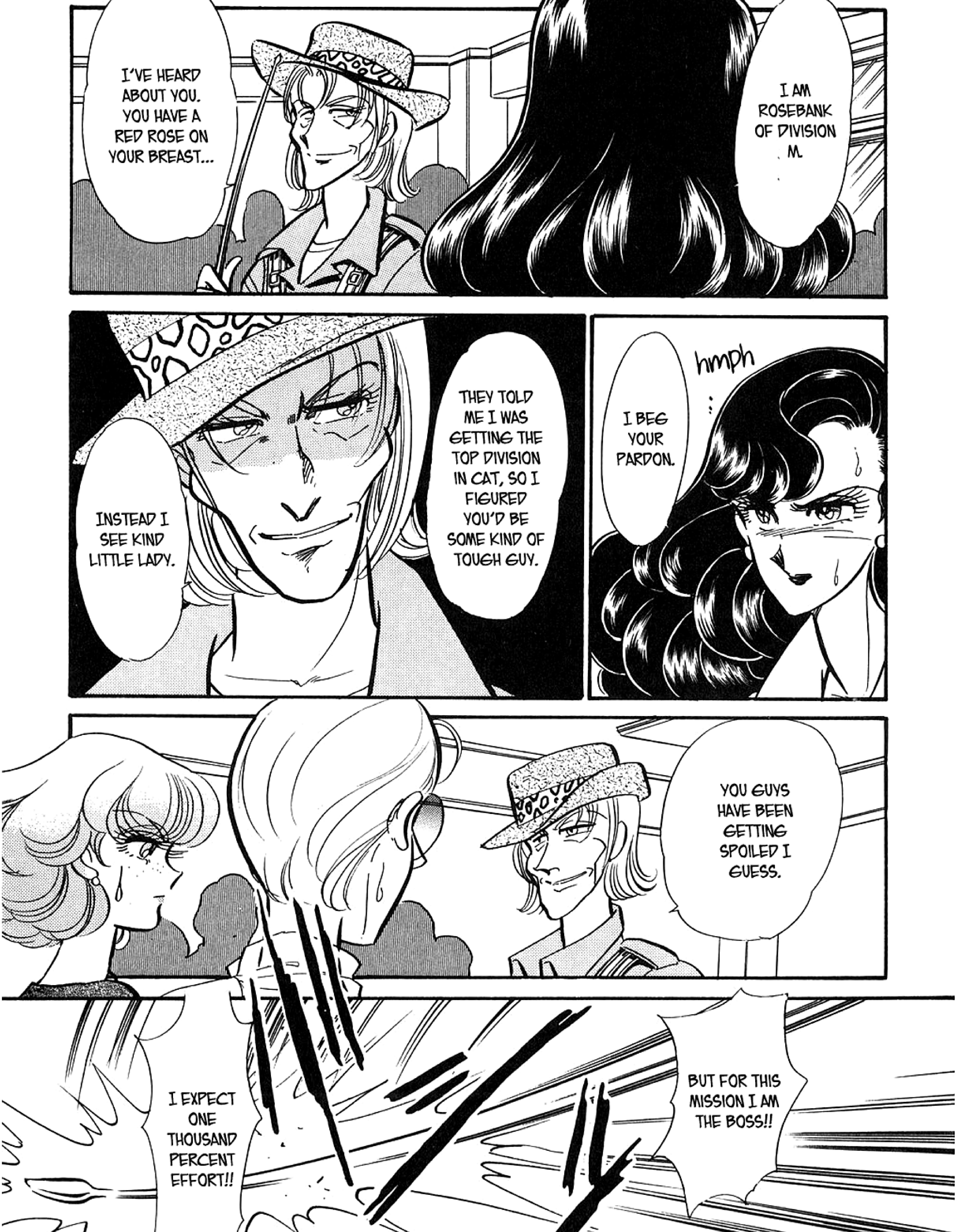

VESBANIA...I WOULD LOVE TO GO THERE AS A TOURIST.
RIGHT
THEY CALL IT THE PEARL OF EASTERN EUROPE...I'VE HEARD THE CITIES ARE BEAUTIFUL.
Lufthansa
A SPACIOUS COUNTRYSIDE DOTTED WITH TOWNS AND VILLAGES AND ALL THE HOUSES LOOK LIKE SOMETHING FROM A FAIRY TALE.
THE CAPITAL CITY VESTA LOOKS LIKE IT CAME STRAIGHT OUT OF THE MIDDLE AGES...
NOW BLOOD FIGHTS BLOOD. IT IS THE POWDER KEG OF EASTERN EUROPE.

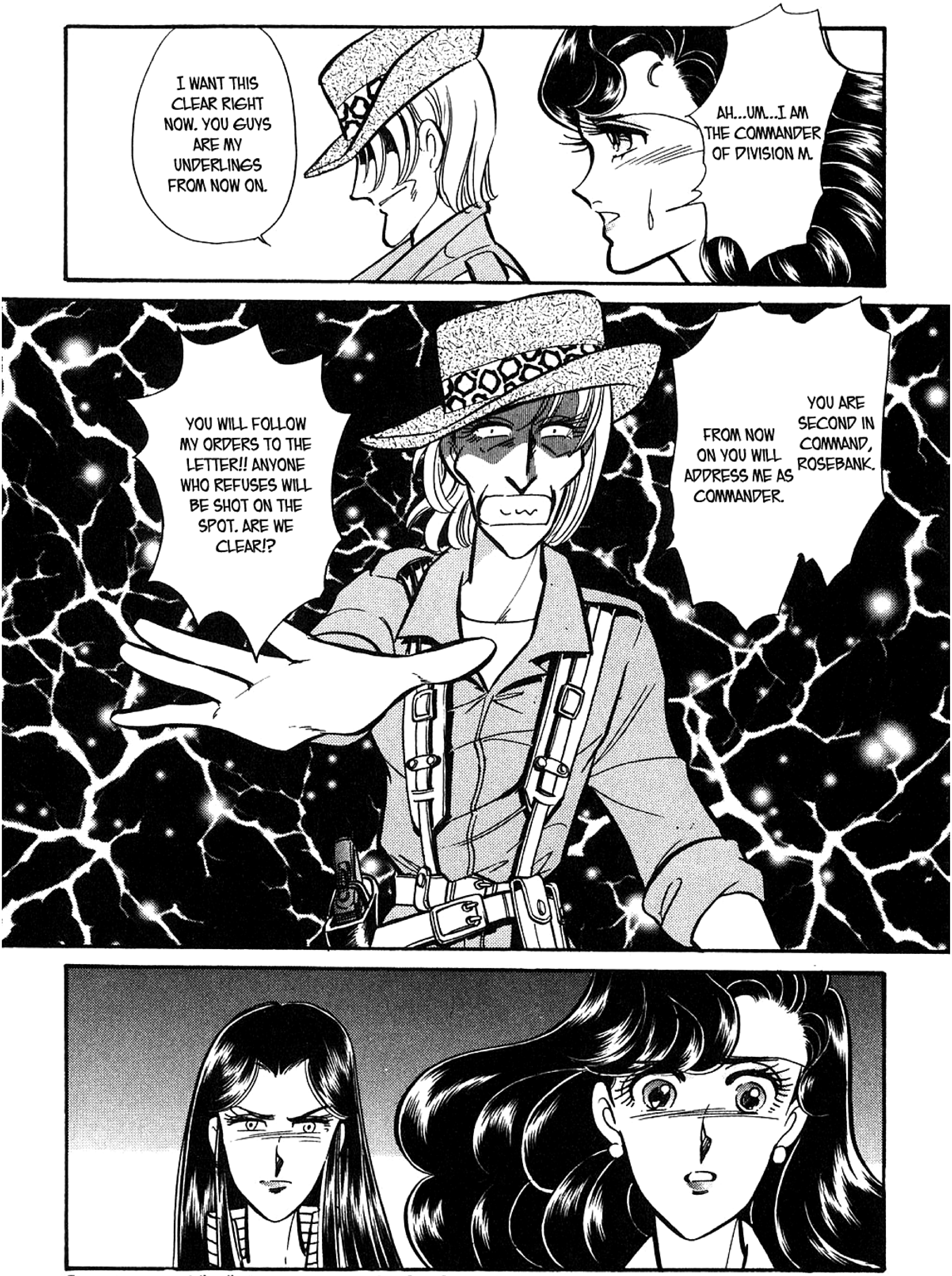

GEEZ, DELA.
IT IS A COUNTRY FORMED FROM TWO DIFFERENT ETHNICITIES.
SLAVIC AND LATIN...THIS IS PRETTY COMMON IN ETHNICALLY WHITE COUNTRIES ADJACENT TO CENTRAL ASIA.
WIENAL AND ILBANIAN
THEY BOTH HAVE A STRONG SENSE NATIONALISTIC PRIDE. AS SOON AS THE FORMER SOVIET COMMUNIST SYSTEM WAS OVERTHROWN, NATIONALIST SENTIMENTS BEGAN TO RESURFACE.
IT IS FIRST AND FOREMOST A FIGHT OVER WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO RUN THE GOVERNMENT...
BUT THE ETHNIC TENSIONS MAKE IT THAT MUCH WORSE.


CAT OVERSEAS FORCE ROSEBANK WITH TWELVE AGENTS...
REPORTING FOR DUTY.
WAIT HERE, PLEASE.
CAT


PHEW, I'M EXHAUSTED.
IRENE! YOU'RE ACTING LIKE AN OLD LADY.
SHADDAP! DON'T GET SO STUCK UP 'CAUSE YOU'RE A LITTLE BIT YOUNGER THAN ME.
STOP IT!
WHO'S THEIR COMMANDER?
DO YOU KNOW THE NAME?
LET'S SEE...I THINK I HAVE IT WRITTEN HERE.
QUINCY MILLER. HUH...A WOMAN.
!!
!!


YOU REMEMBER ME?
I'M FLATTERED.
C- C- COMMANDER MILLER...
SHIT!!
IRENE? DELA? STILL BAD-MANNERED AS EVER?
......
UM...ARE YOU MS. MILLER?
FORMER COMMANDER OF CAT DIVISION Q
NOW WITH NATO SPECIAL FORCES. I AM QUINCY MILLER.

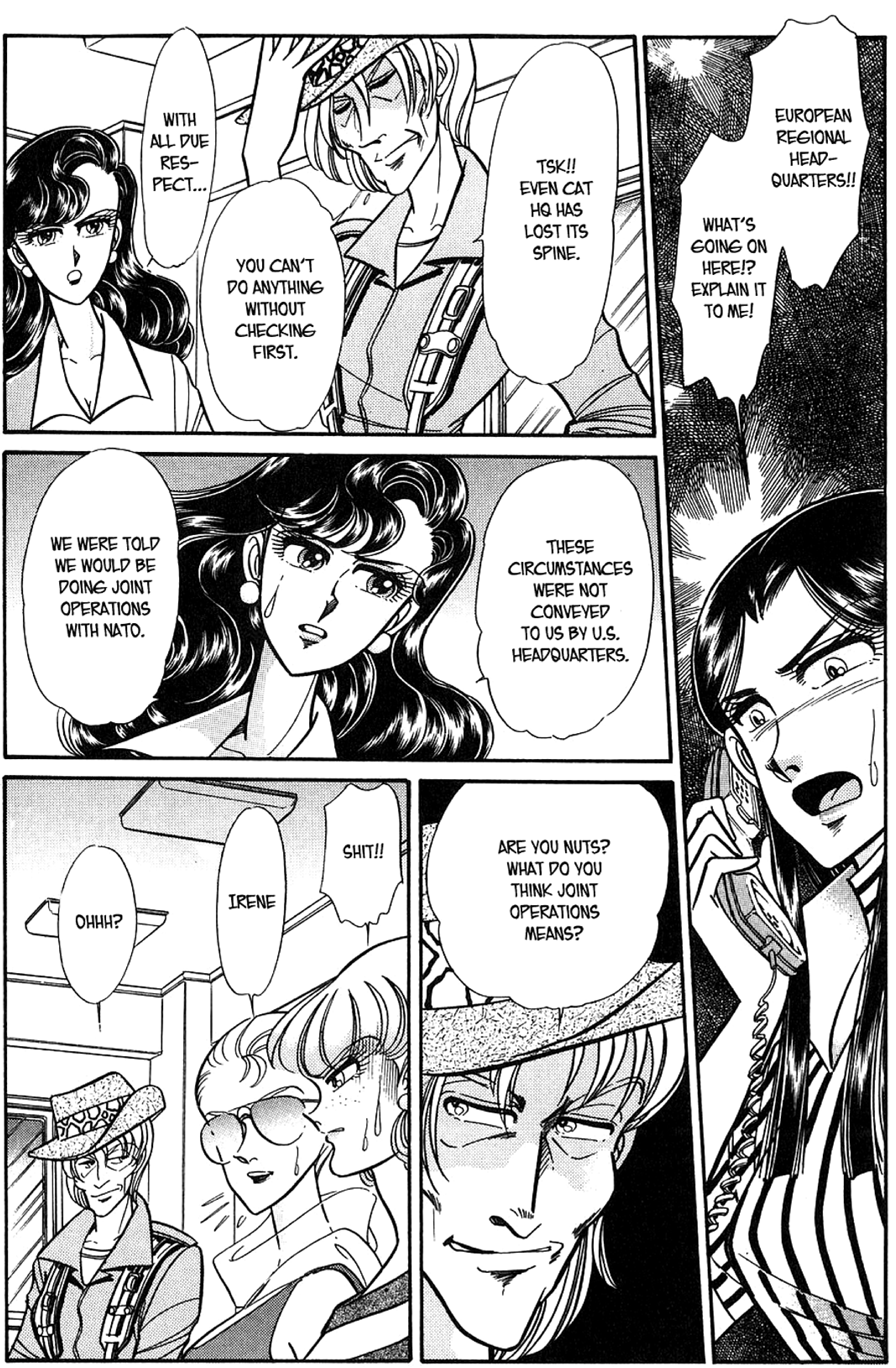

I AM ROSEBANK OF DIVISION M.
I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU. YOU HAVE A RED ROSE ON YOUR BREAST...
hmph
I BEG YOUR PARDON.
THEY TOLD ME I WAS GETTING THE TOP DIVISION IN CAT, SO I FIGURED YOU'D BE SOME KIND OF TOUGH GUY.
INSTEAD I SEE KIND LITTLE LADY.
YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN GETTING SPOILED I GUESS.
BUT FOR THIS MISSION I AM THE BOSS!!
I EXPECT ONE THOUSAND PERCENT EFFORT!!
(SFX) WHAM

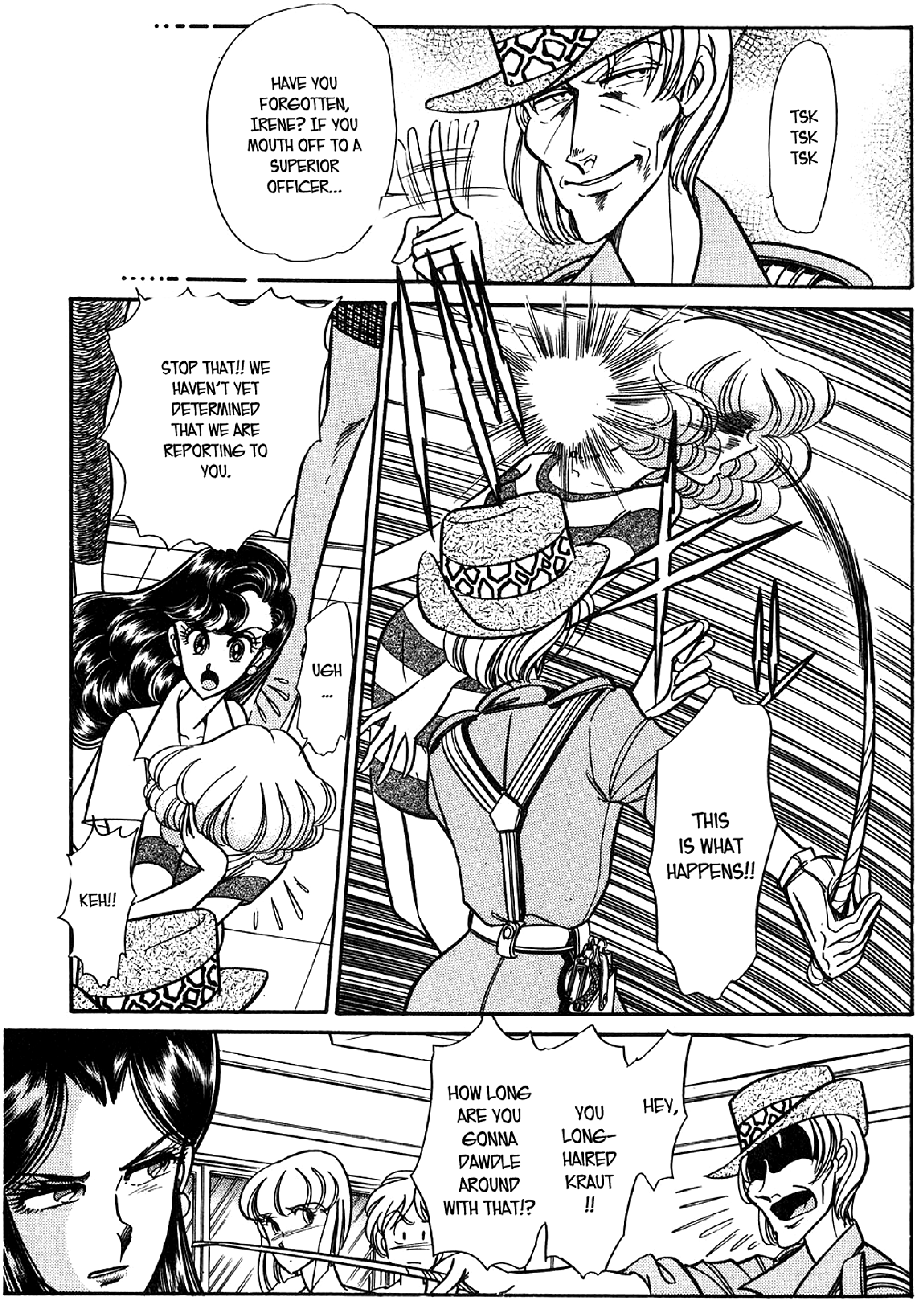

AH...UM...I AM THE COMMANDER OF DIVISION M.
I WANT THIS CLEAR RIGHT NOW. YOU GUYS ARE MY UNDERLINGS FROM NOW ON.
YOU ARE SECOND IN COMMAND, ROSEBANK.
FROM NOW ON YOU WILL ADDRESS ME AS COMMANDER.
YOU WILL FOLLOW MY ORDERS TO THE LETTER!! ANYONE WHO REFUSES WILL BE SHOT ON THE SPOT. ARE WE CLEAR!?

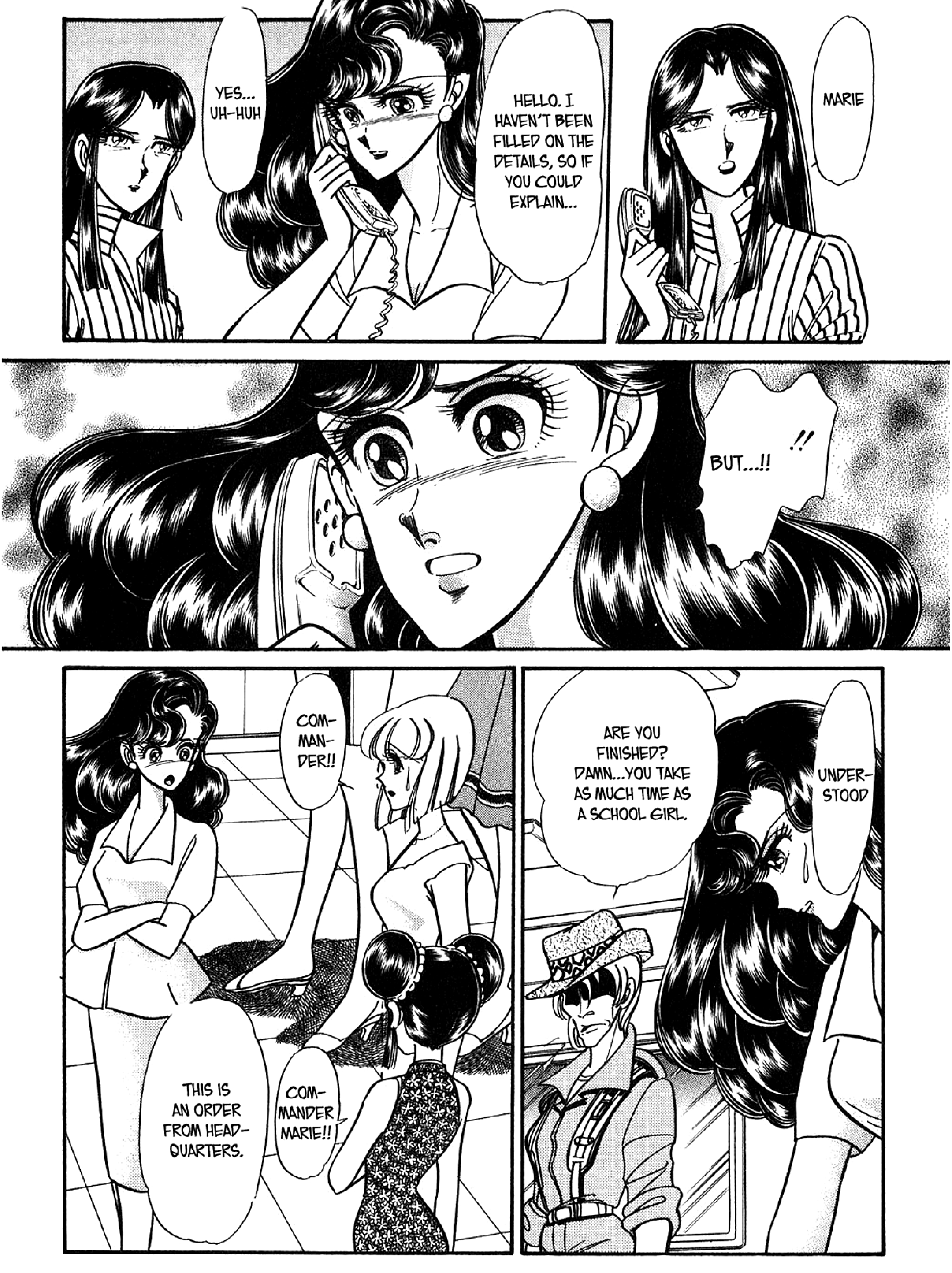
[File25:ダブル・スペード(1)　おわり]

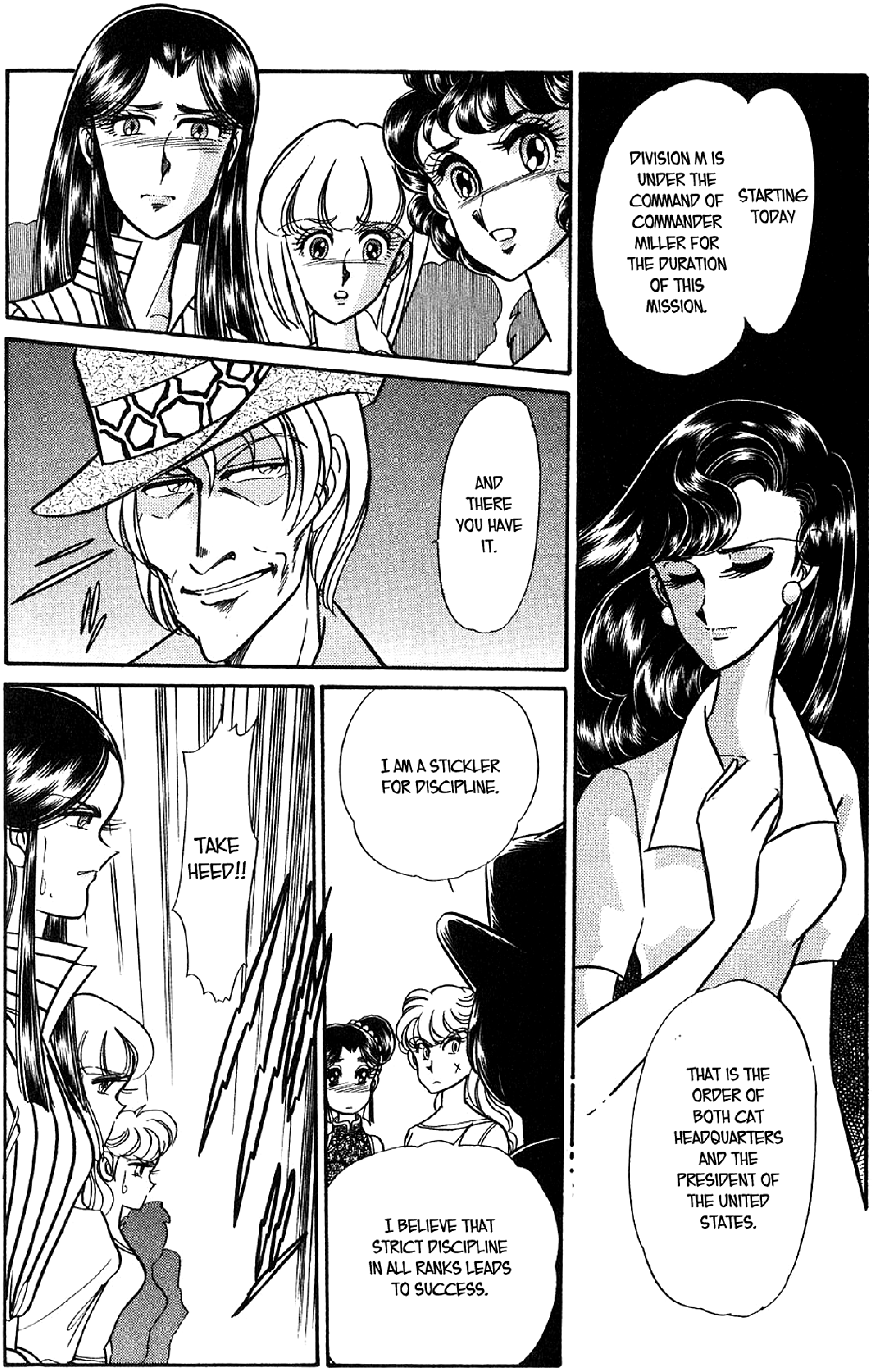
砂の薔薇
デザート・ローズ

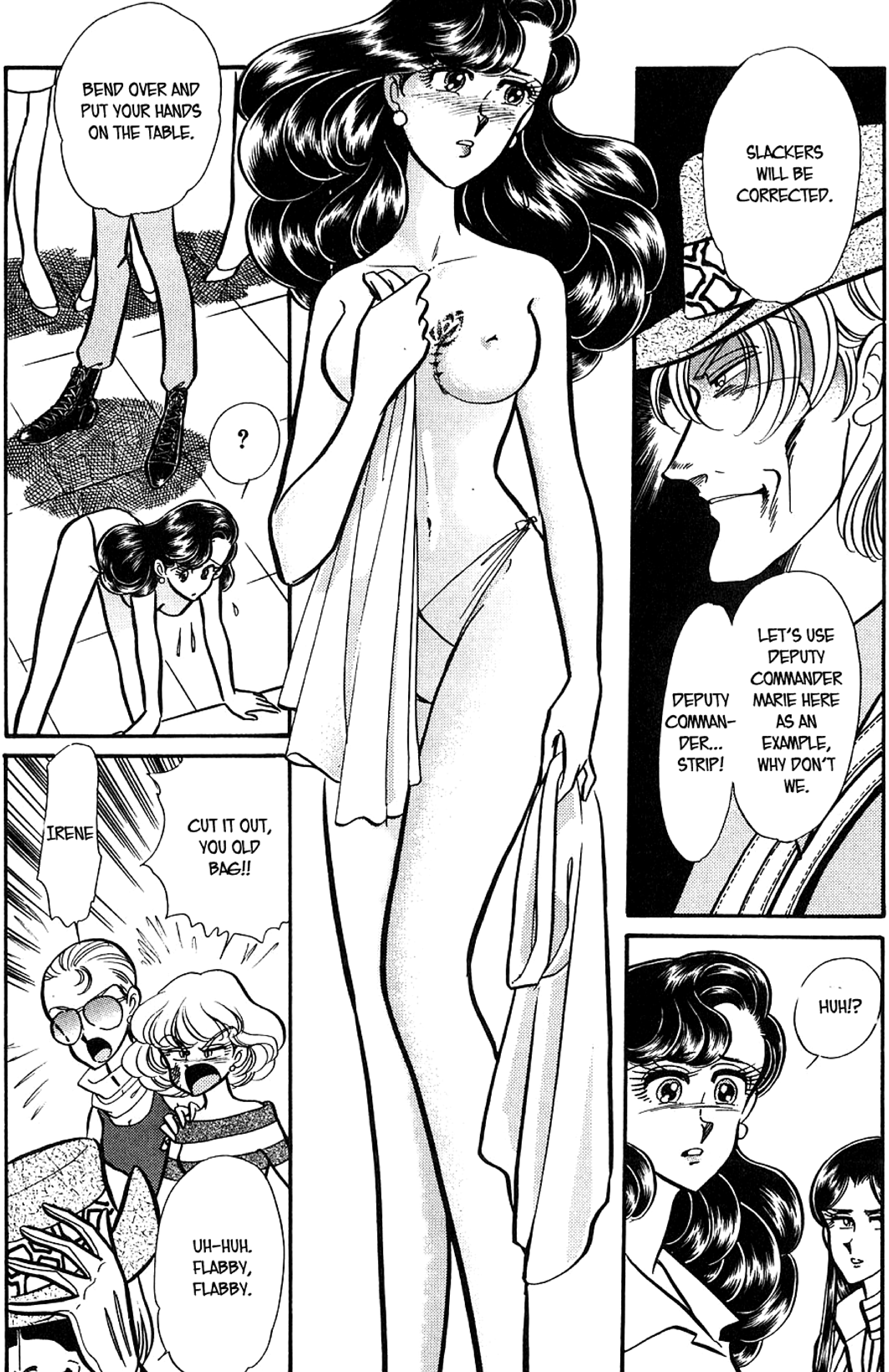
File 25:
Double Spade (2)

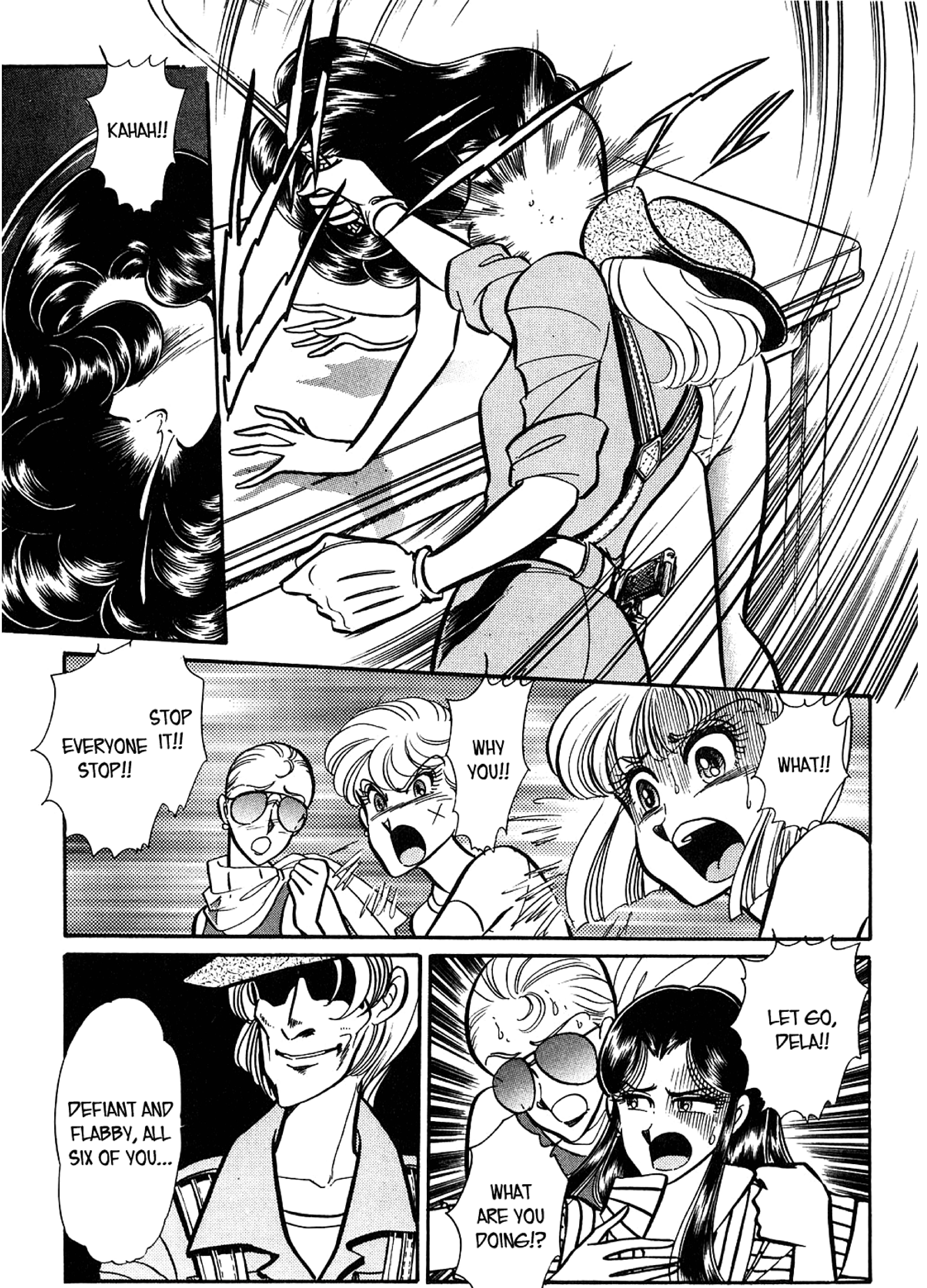

EUROPEAN REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS!!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!? EXPLAIN IT TO ME!
TSK!! EVEN CAT HQ HAS LOST ITS SPINE.
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT...
YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT CHECKING FIRST.
THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE NOT CONVEYED TO US BY U.S. HEADQUARTERS.
WE WERE TOLD WE WOULD BE DOING JOINT OPERATIONS WITH NATO.
ARE YOU NUTS? WHAT DO YOU THINK JOINT OPERATIONS MEANS?
SHIT!!
IRENE
OHHH?

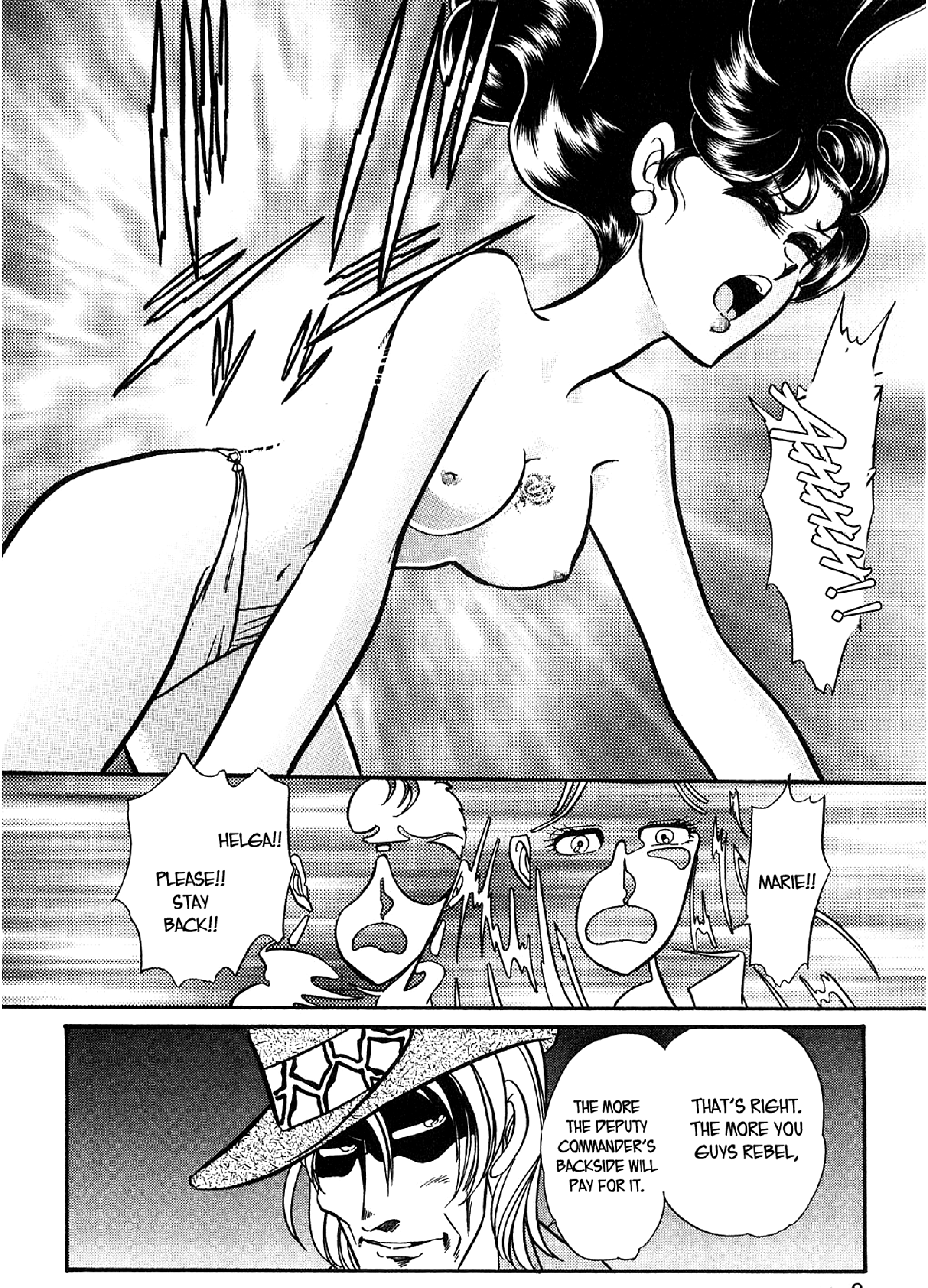

TSK TSK TSK
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, IRENE? IF YOU MOUTH OFF TO A SUPERIOR OFFICER...
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS!!
STOP THAT!! WE HAVEN'T YET DETERMINED THAT WE ARE REPORTING TO YOU.
UGH ...
KEH!!
HEY,
YOU LONG-HAIRED KRAUT !!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA DAWDLE AROUND WITH THAT!?

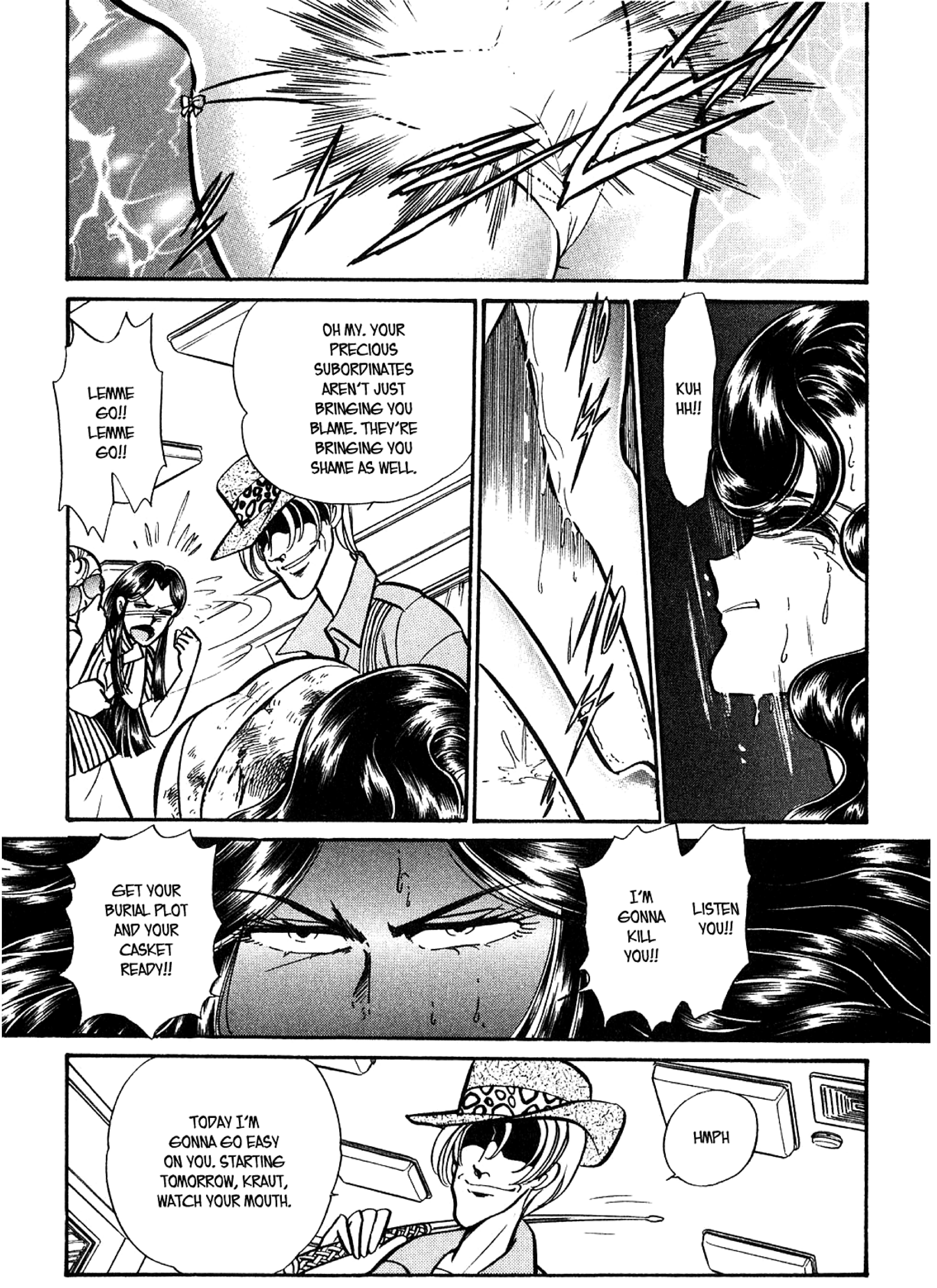

MARIE
HELLO. I HAVEN'T BEEN FILLED ON THE DETAILS, SO IF YOU COULD EXPLAIN...
YES... UH-HUH
!!
BUT...!!
UNDERSTOOD
ARE YOU FINISHED? DAMN...YOU TAKE AS MUCH TIME AS A SCHOOL GIRL.
COMMANDER!!
COMMANDER MARIE!!
THIS IS AN ORDER FROM HEADQUARTERS.

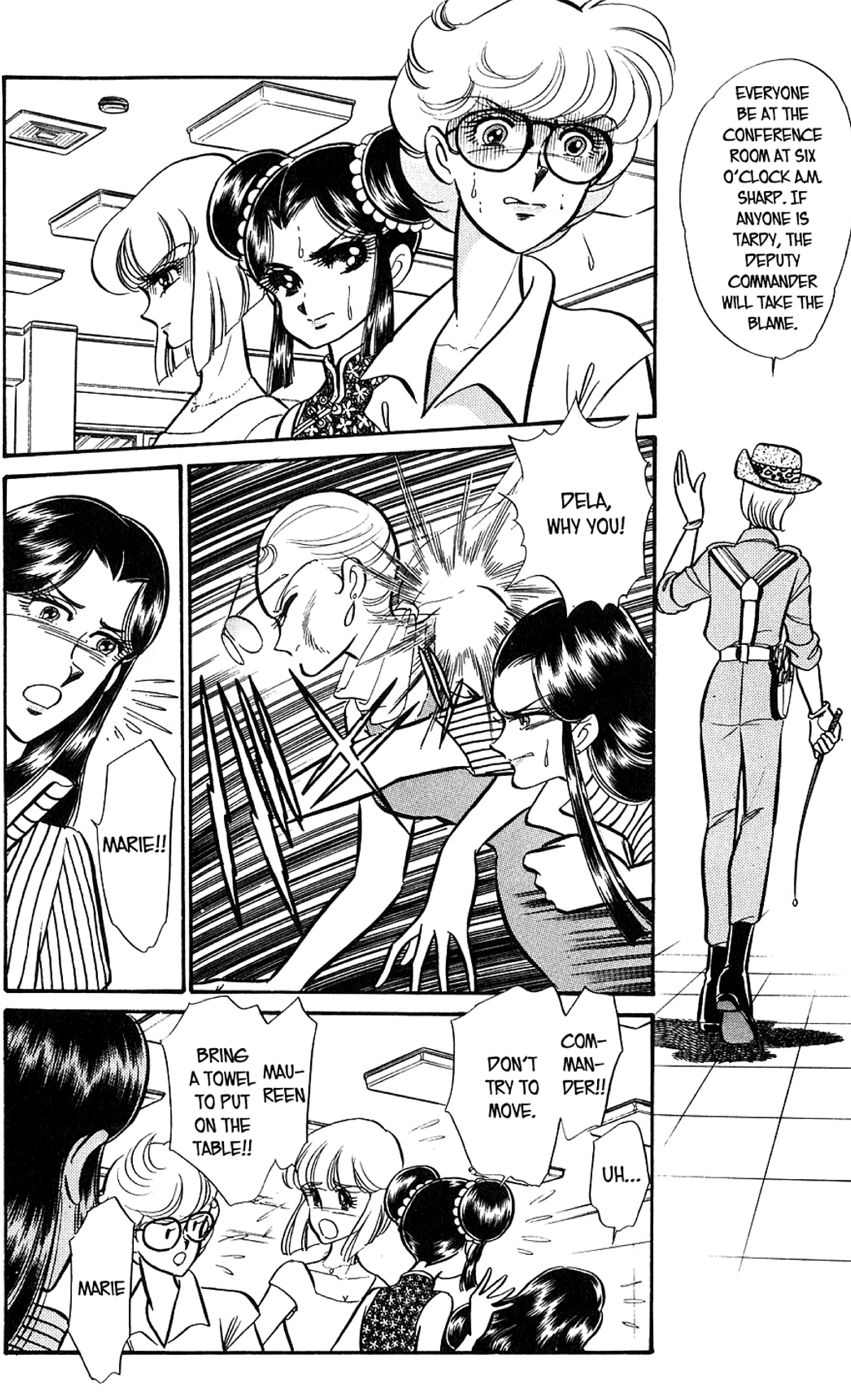

STARTING TODAY
DIVISION M IS UNDER THE COMMAND OF COMMANDER MILLER FOR THE DURATION OF THIS MISSION.
THAT IS THE ORDER OF BOTH CAT HEADQUARTERS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
AND THERE YOU HAVE IT.
I AM A STICKLER FOR DISCIPLINE.
I BELIEVE THAT STRICT DISCIPLINE IN ALL RANKS LEADS TO SUCCESS.
TAKE HEED!!

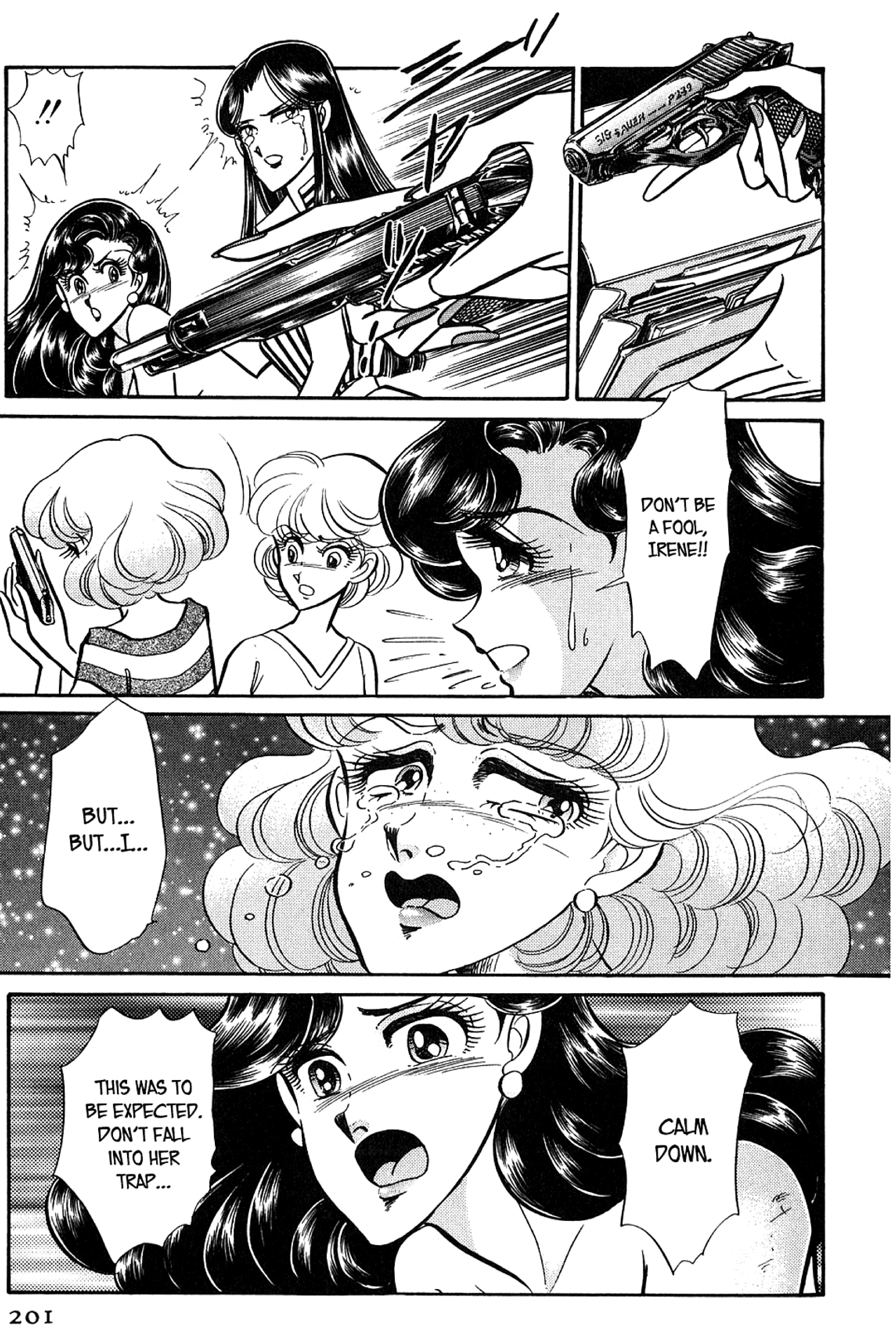

SLACKERS WILL BE CORRECTED.
LET'S USE DEPUTY COMMANDER MARIE HERE AS AN EXAMPLE, WHY DON'T WE.
DEPUTY COMMANDER... STRIP!
BEND OVER AND PUT YOUR HANDS ON THE TABLE.
?
HUH!?
CUT IT OUT, YOU OLD BAG!!
IRENE
UH-HUH. FLABBY, FLABBY.

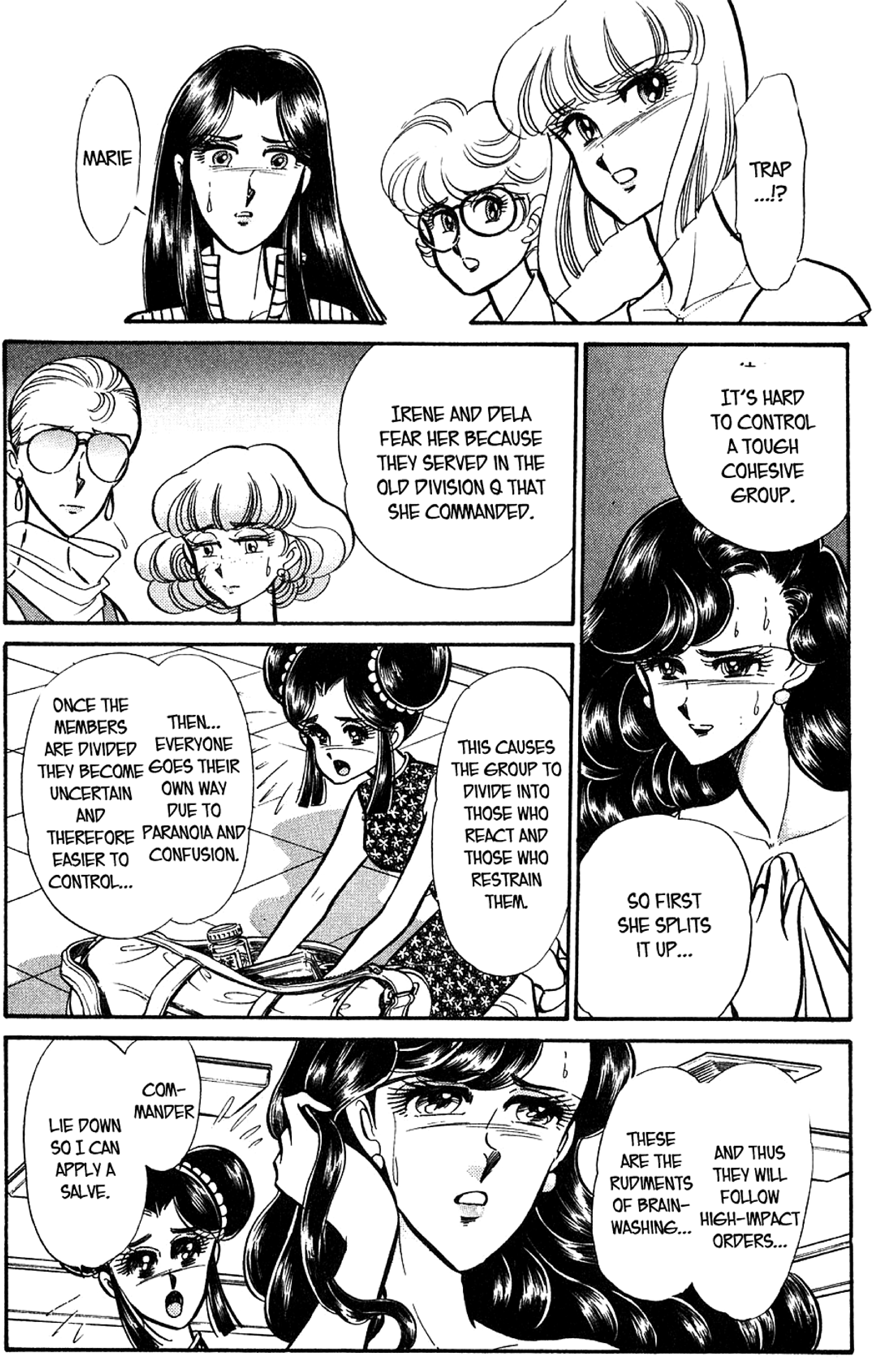

KAHAH!!
WHAT!!
WHY YOU!!
STOP IT!! EVERYONE STOP!!
LET GO, DELA!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
DEFIANT AND FLABBY, ALL SIX OF YOU...

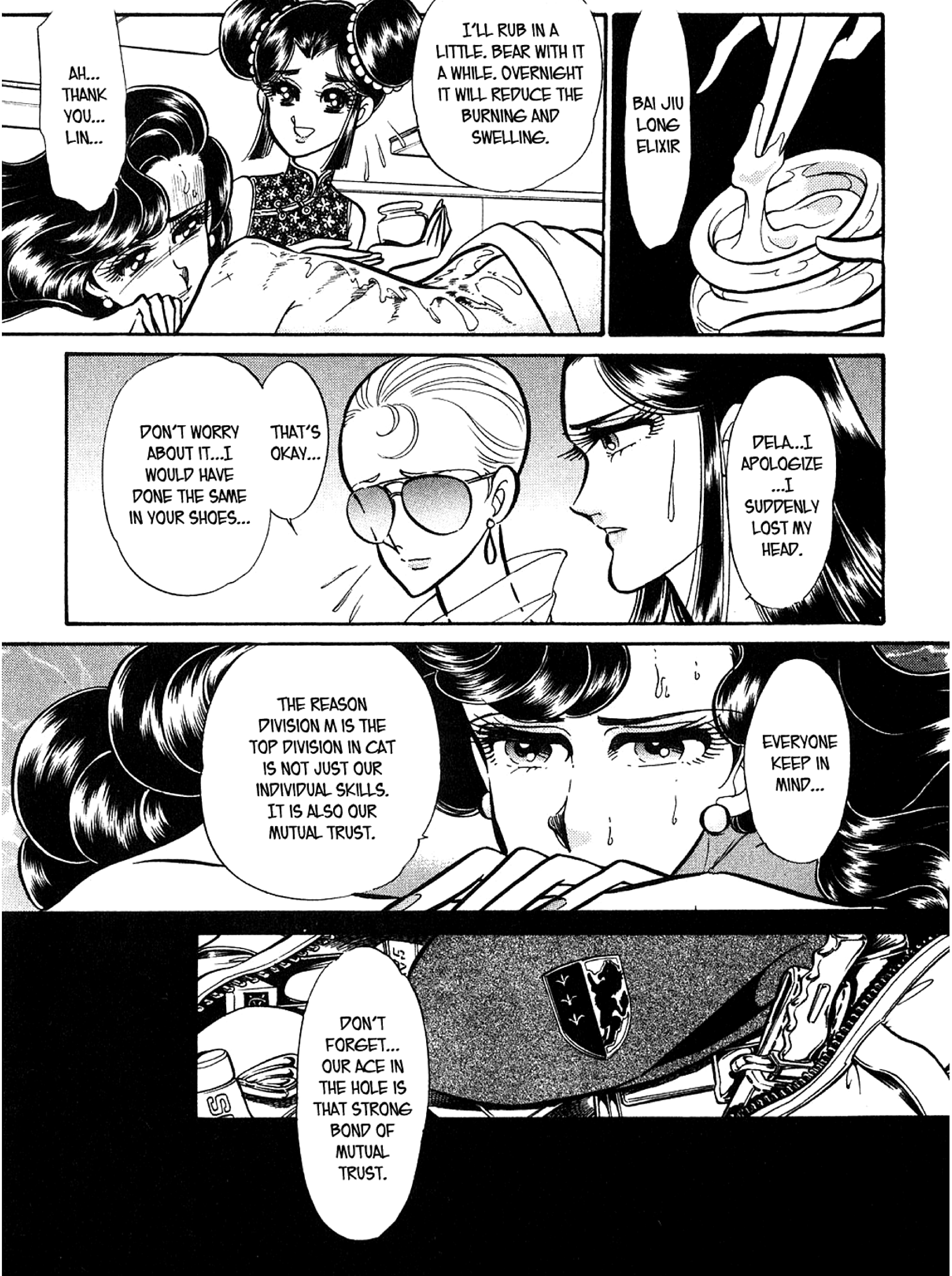

AAHHHH!!
MARIE!!
HELGA!!
PLEASE!! STAY BACK!!
THAT'S RIGHT. THE MORE YOU GUYS REBEL,
THE MORE THE DEPUTY COMMANDER'S BACKSIDE WILL PAY FOR IT.

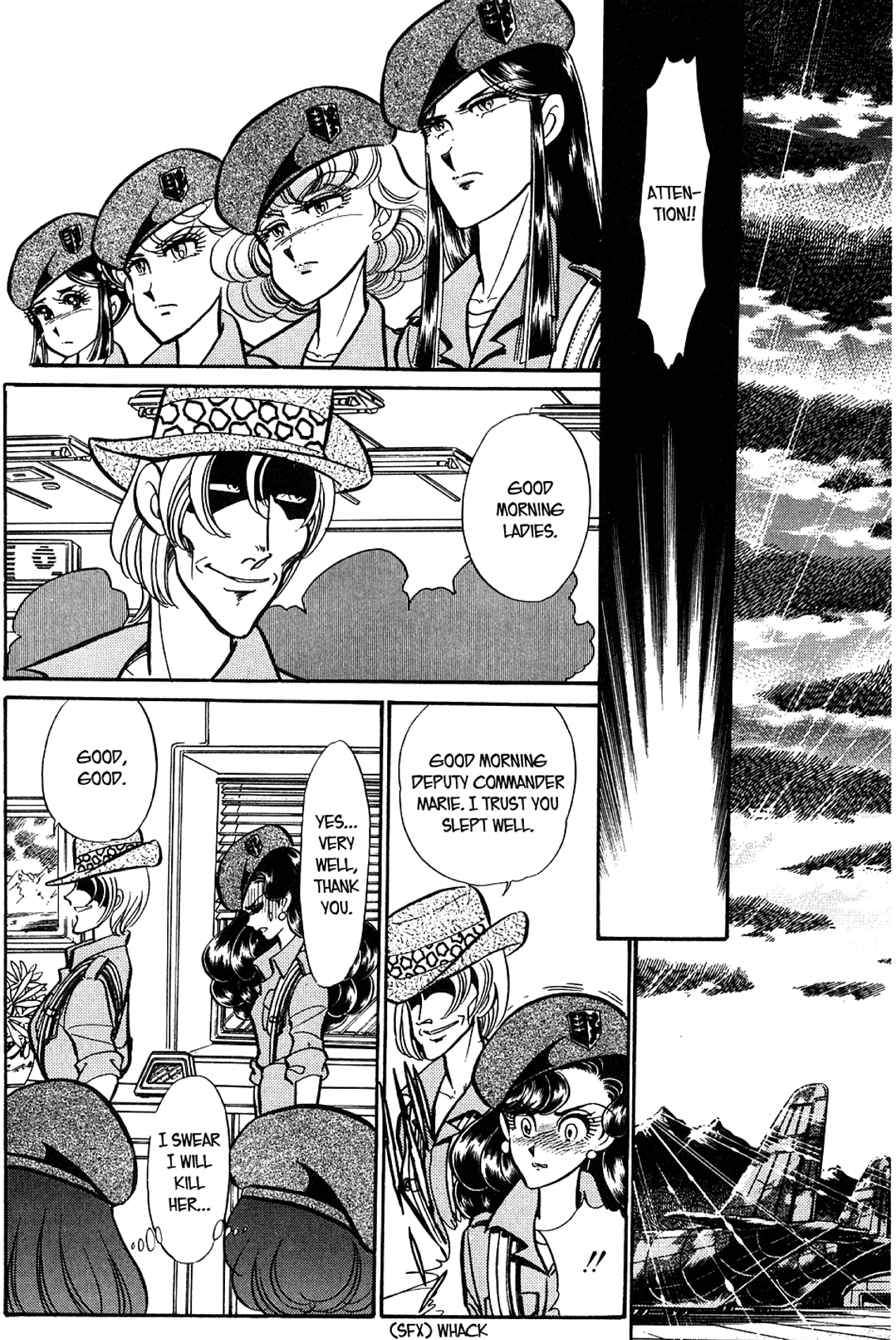

KUH HH!!
OH MY. YOUR PRECIOUS SUBORDINATES AREN'T JUST BRINGING YOU BLAME. THEY'RE BRINGING YOU SHAME AS WELL.
LEMME GO!! LEMME GO!!
LISTEN YOU!!
I'M GONNA KILL YOU!!
GET YOUR BURIAL PLOT AND YOUR CASKET READY!!
HMPH
TODAY I'M GONNA GO EASY ON YOU. STARTING TOMORROW, KRAUT, WATCH YOUR MOUTH.


EVERYONE BE AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT SIX O'CLOCK A.M. SHARP. IF ANYONE IS TARDY, THE DEPUTY COMMANDER WILL TAKE THE BLAME.
DELA, WHY YOU!
MARIE!!
COMMANDER!!
DON'T TRY TO MOVE.
UH...
MAUREEN
BRING A TOWEL TO PUT ON THE TABLE!!
MARIE

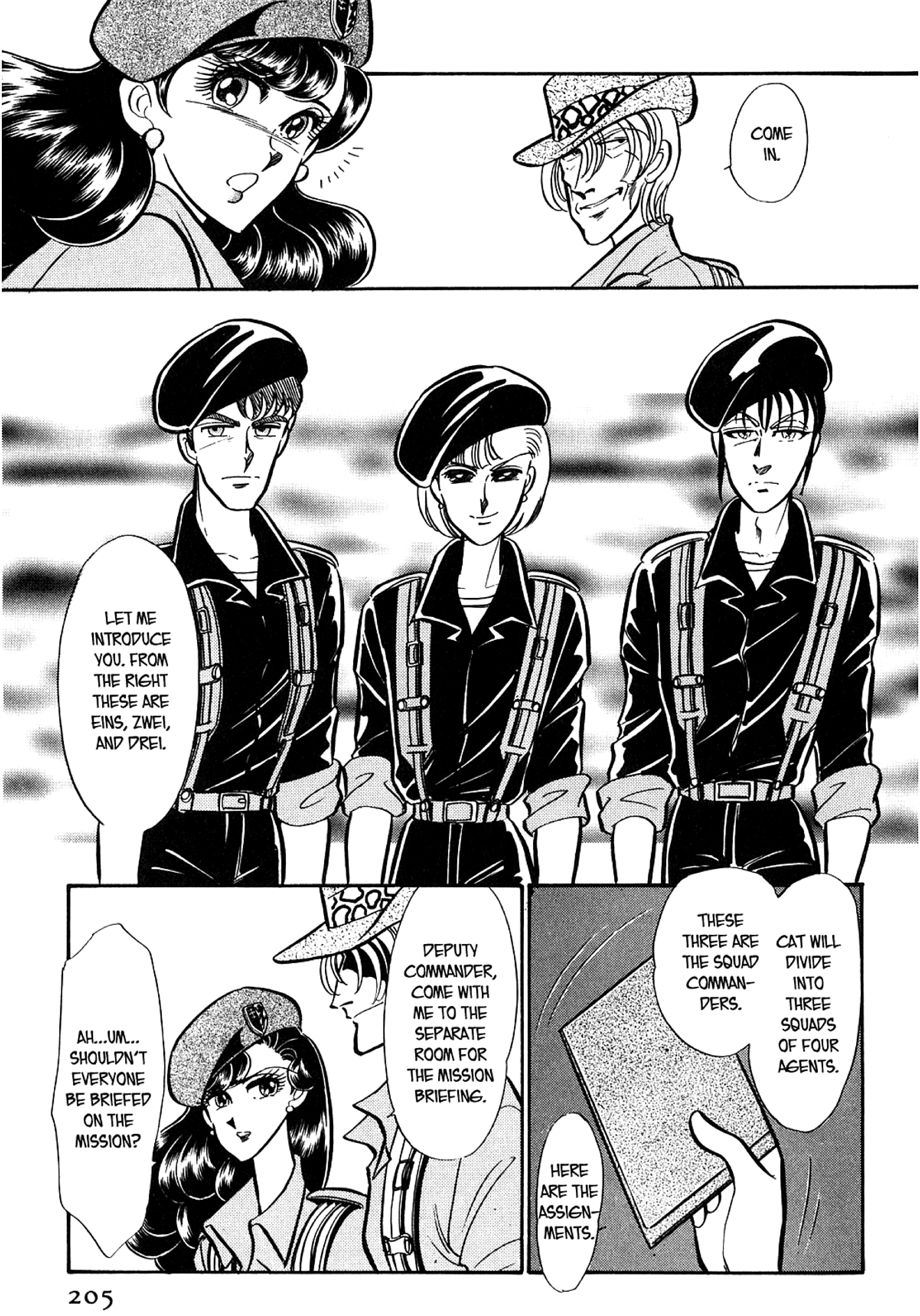

!!
DON'T BE A FOOL, IRENE!!
BUT... BUT...I...
CALM DOWN.
THIS WAS TO BE EXPECTED. DON'T FALL INTO HER TRAP...

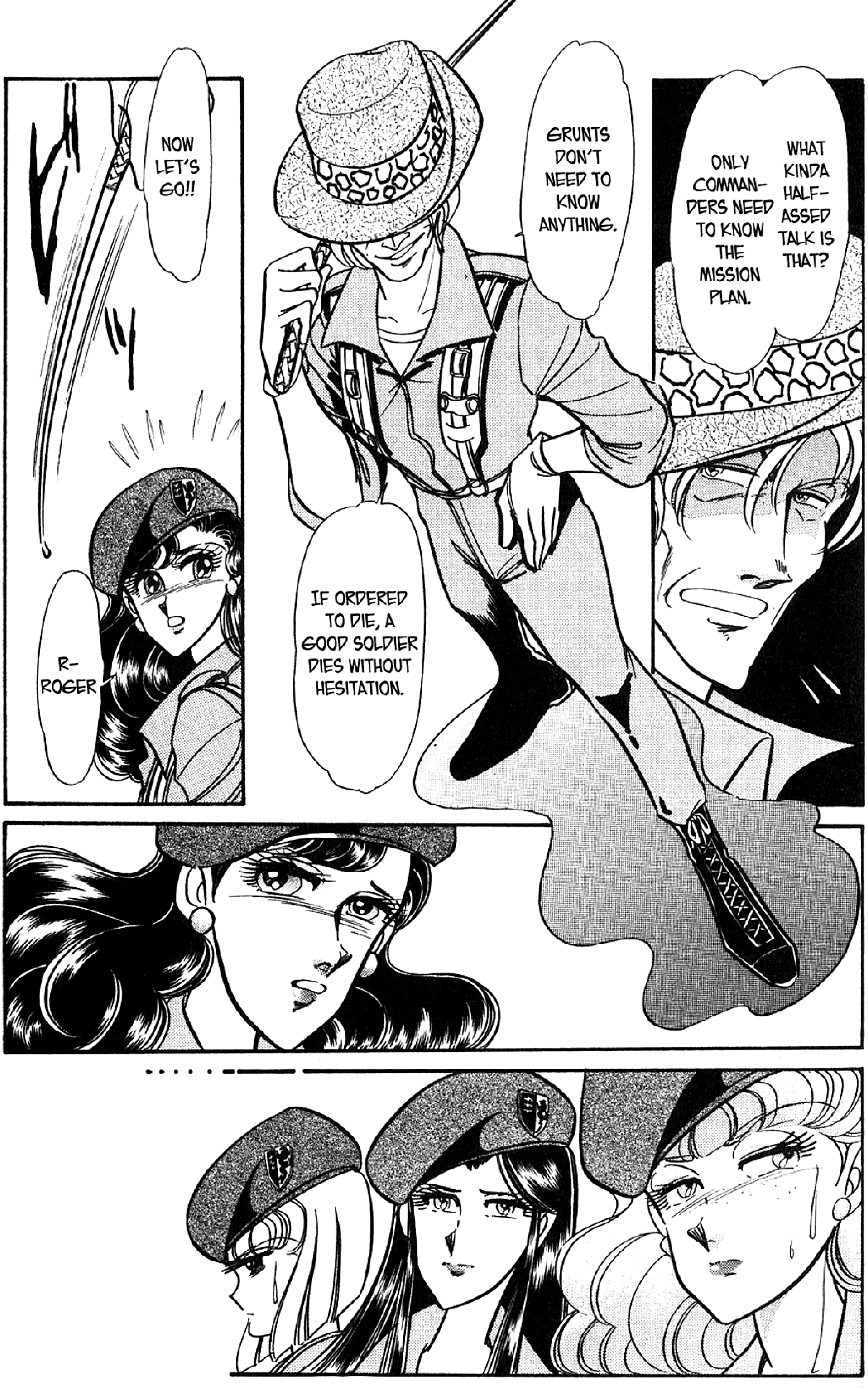

TRAP ...!?
MARIE
IRENE AND DELA FEAR HER BECAUSE THEY SERVED IN THE OLD DIVISION Q THAT SHE COMMANDED.
IT'S HARD TO CONTROL A TOUGH COHESIVE GROUP.
SO FIRST SHE SPLITS IT UP...
THIS CAUSES THE GROUP TO DIVIDE INTO THOSE WHO REACT AND THOSE WHO RESTRAIN THEM.
THEN... EVERYONE GOES THEIR OWN WAY DUE TO PARANOIA AND CONFUSION.
ONCE THE MEMBERS ARE DIVIDED THEY BECOME UNCERTAIN AND THEREFORE EASIER TO CONTROL...
AND THUS THEY WILL FOLLOW HIGH-IMPACT ORDERS...
THESE ARE THE RUDIMENTS OF BRAIN-WASHING...
COMMANDER
LIE DOWN SO I CAN APPLY A SALVE.

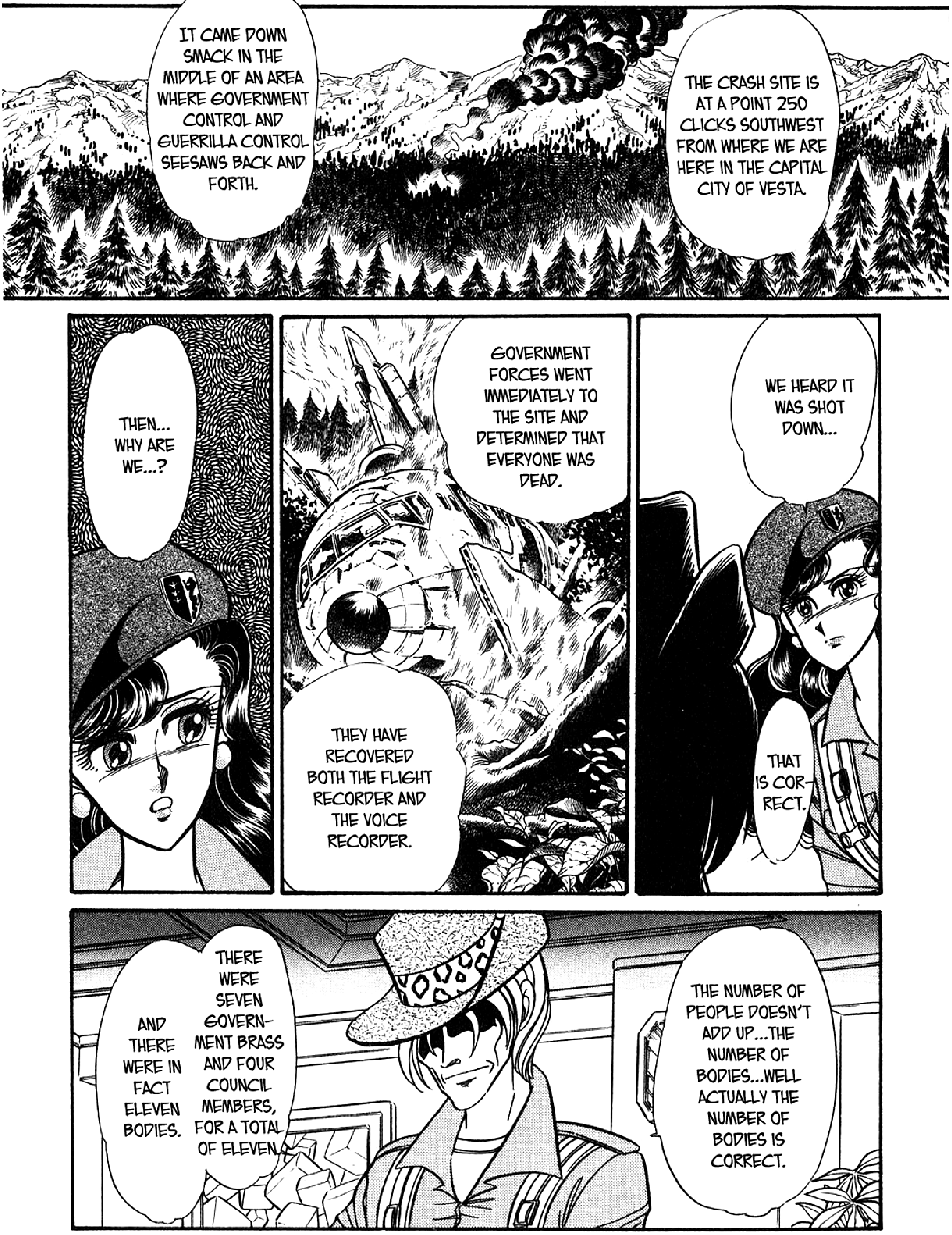

BAI JIU LONG ELIXIR
I'LL RUB IN A LITTLE. BEAR WITH IT A WHILE. OVERNIGHT IT WILL REDUCE THE BURNING AND SWELLING.
AH... THANK YOU... LIN...
DELA...I APOLOGIZE ...I SUDDENLY LOST MY HEAD.
THAT'S OKAY...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...I WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME IN YOUR SHOES...
EVERYONE KEEP IN MIND...
THE REASON DIVISION M IS THE TOP DIVISION IN CAT IS NOT JUST OUR INDIVIDUAL SKILLS. IT IS ALSO OUR MUTUAL TRUST.
DON'T FORGET... OUR ACE IN THE HOLE IS THAT STRONG BOND OF MUTUAL TRUST.

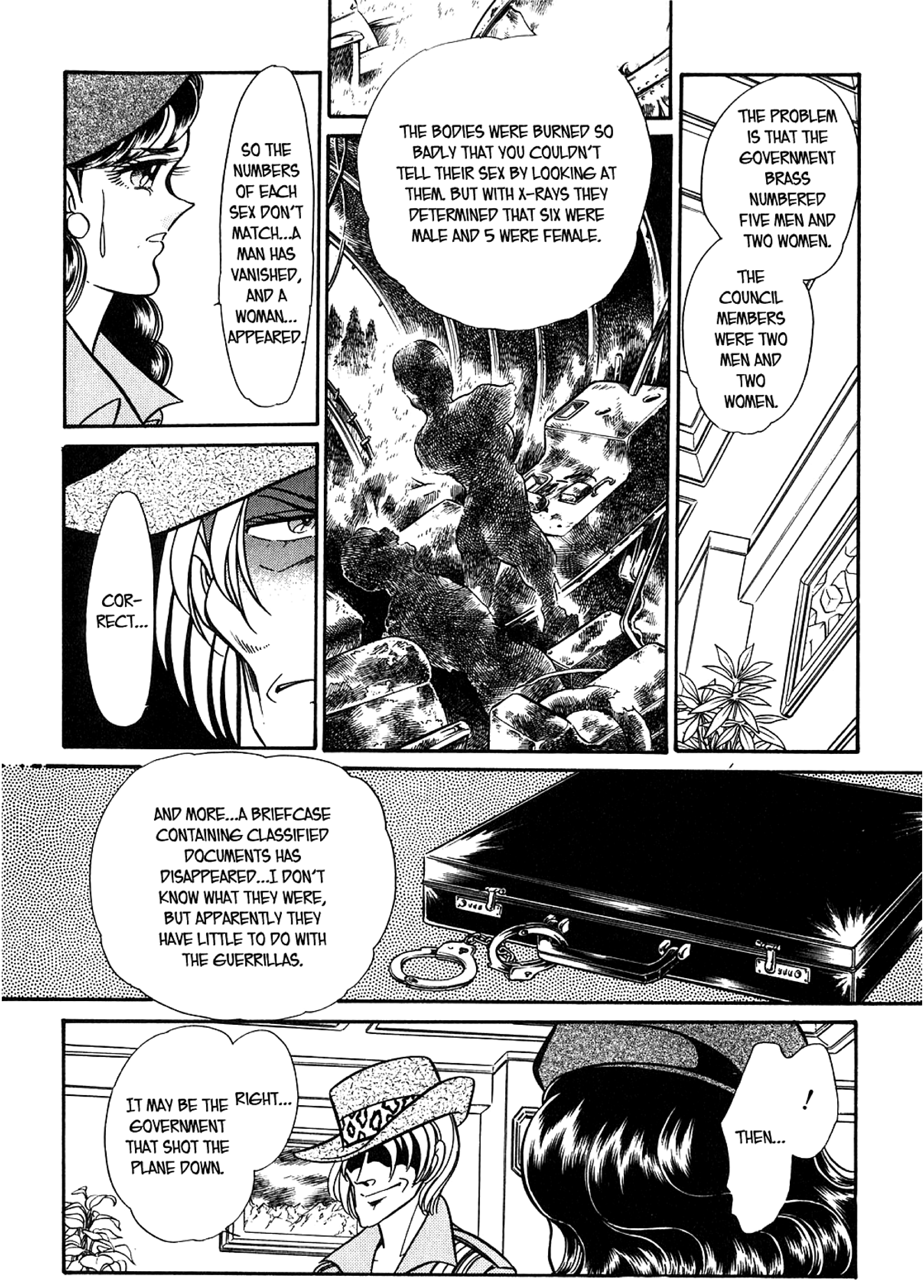

ATTENTION!!
GOOD MORNING LADIES.
GOOD MORNING DEPUTY COMMANDER MARIE. I TRUST YOU SLEPT WELL.
!!
YES... VERY WELL, THANK YOU.
GOOD, GOOD.
I SWEAR I WILL KILL HER...

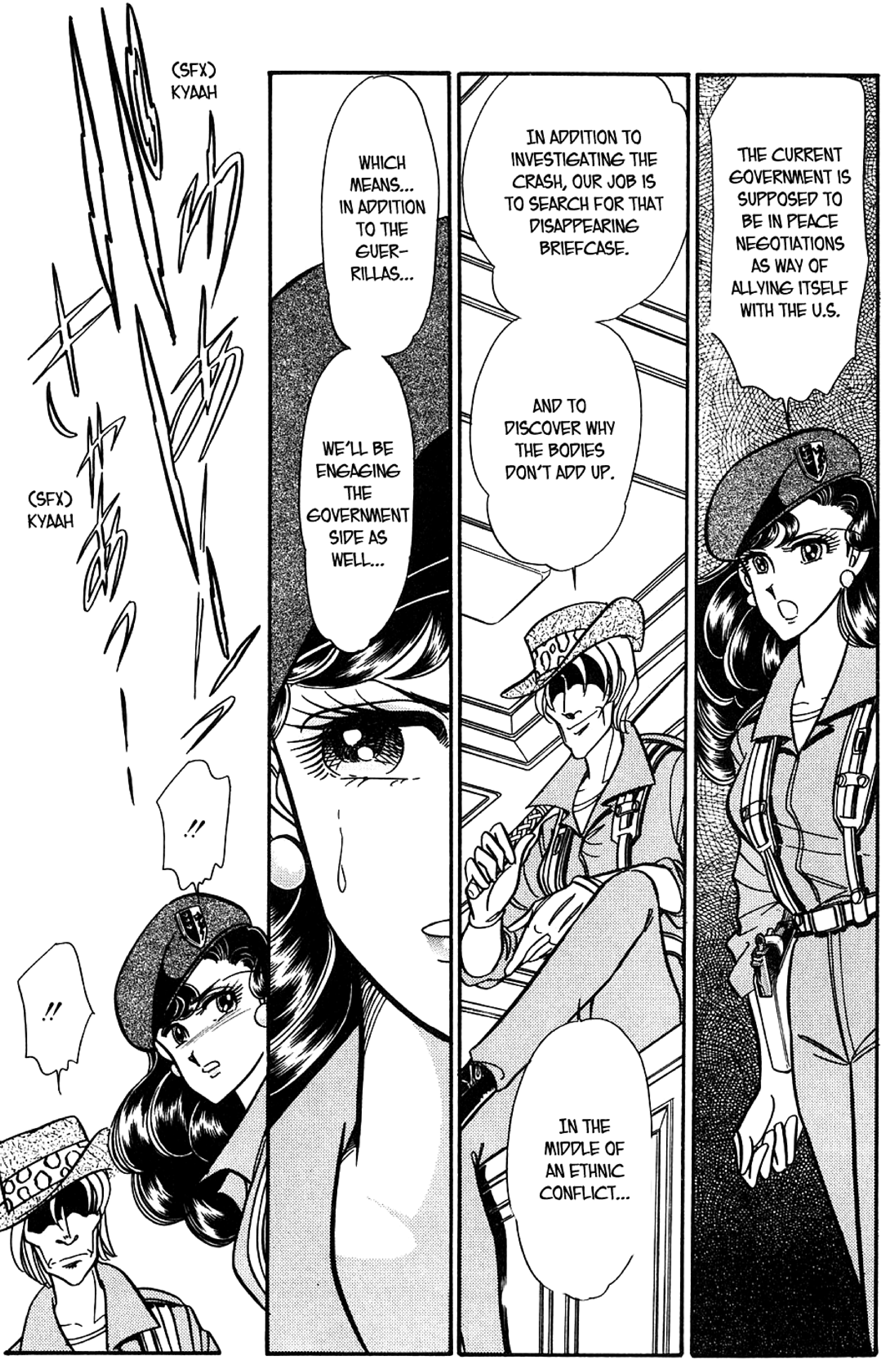
(SFX) WHACK

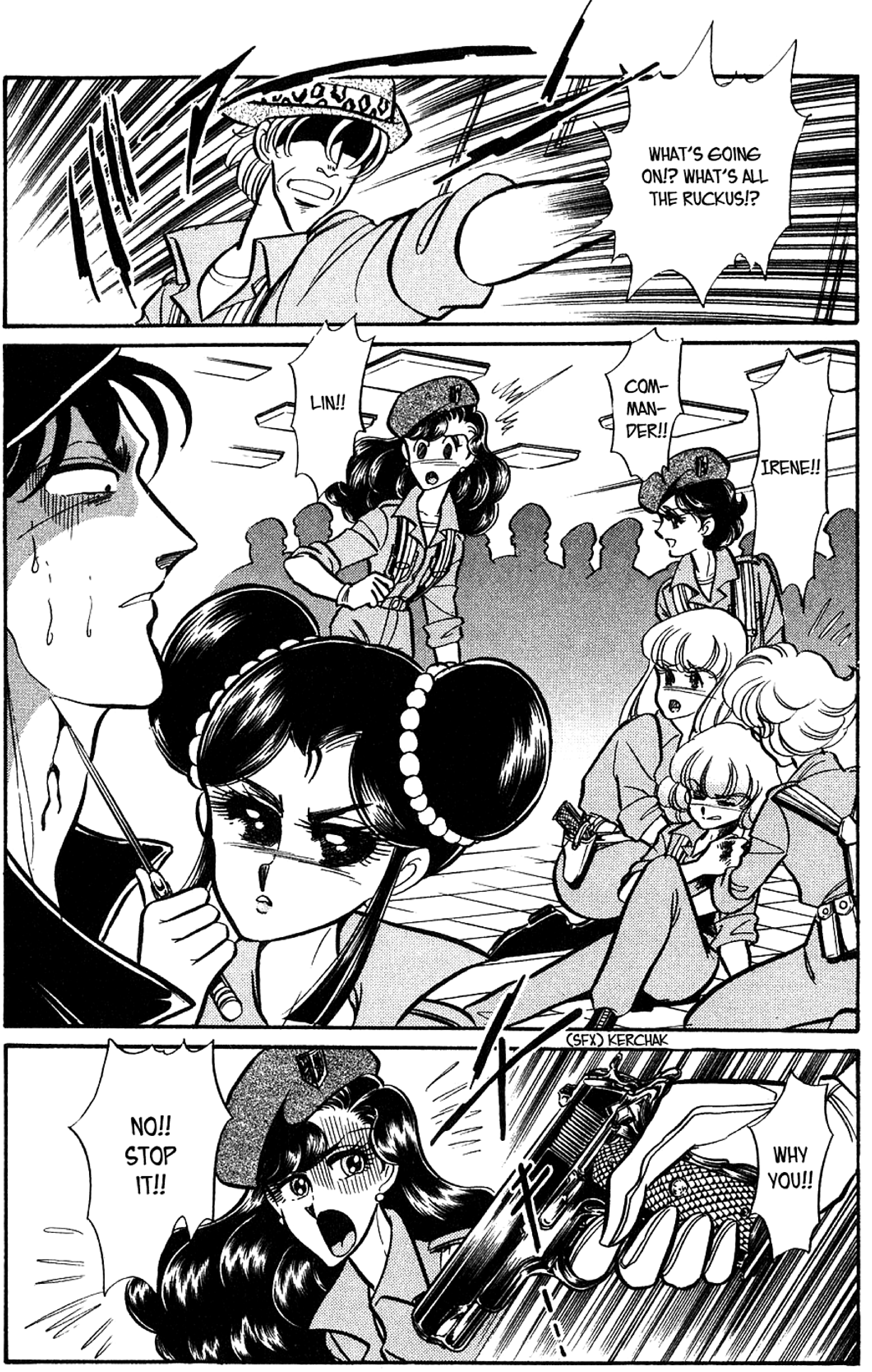

COME IN.
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU. FROM THE RIGHT THESE ARE EINS, ZWEI, AND DREI.
CAT WILL DIVIDE INTO THREE SQUADS OF FOUR AGENTS.
THESE THREE ARE THE SQUAD COMMANDERS.
HERE ARE THE ASSIGNMENTS.
DEPUTY COMMANDER, COME WITH ME TO THE SEPARATE ROOM FOR THE MISSION BRIEFING.
AH...UM... SHOULDN'T EVERYONE BE BRIEFED ON THE MISSION?


WHAT KINDA HALF-ASSED TALK IS THAT?
ONLY COMMANDERS NEED TO KNOW THE MISSION PLAN.
GRUNTS DON'T NEED TO KNOW ANYTHING.
IF ORDERED TO DIE, A GOOD SOLDIER DIES WITHOUT HESITATION.
NOW LET'S GO!!
R-ROGER
.... ——


THE CRASH SITE IS AT A POINT 250 CLICKS SOUTHWEST FROM WHERE WE ARE HERE IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF VESTA.
IT CAME DOWN SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF AN AREA WHERE GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND GUERRILLA CONTROL SEESAWS BACK AND FORTH.
WE HEARD IT WAS SHOT DOWN...
THAT IS CORRECT.
GOVERNMENT FORCES WENT IMMEDIATELY TO THE SITE AND DETERMINED THAT EVERYONE WAS DEAD.
THEY HAVE RECOVERED BOTH THE FLIGHT RECORDER AND THE VOICE RECORDER.
THEN... WHY ARE WE...?
THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE DOESN'T ADD UP...THE NUMBER OF BODIES...WELL ACTUALLY THE NUMBER OF BODIES IS CORRECT.
THERE WERE SEVEN GOVERNMENT BRASS AND FOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS, FOR A TOTAL OF ELEVEN.
AND THERE WERE IN FACT ELEVEN BODIES.


THE BODIES WERE BURNED SO BADLY THAT YOU COULDN'T TELL THEIR SEX BY LOOKING AT THEM. BUT WITH X-RAYS THEY DETERMINED THAT SIX WERE MALE AND 5 WERE FEMALE.
THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT BRASS NUMBERED FIVE MEN AND TWO WOMEN.
THE COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE TWO MEN AND TWO WOMEN.
SO THE NUMBERS OF EACH SEX DON'T MATCH...A MAN HAS VANISHED, AND A WOMAN... APPEARED.
CORRECT...
AND MORE...A BRIEFCASE CONTAINING CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS HAS DISAPPEARED...I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY WERE, BUT APPARENTLY THEY HAVE LITTLE TO DO WITH THE GUERRILLAS.
!
THEN...
RIGHT...
IT MAY BE THE GOVERNMENT THAT SHOT THE PLANE DOWN.


THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT IS SUPPOSED TO BE IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AS WAY OF ALLYING ITSELF WITH THE U.S.
IN ADDITION TO INVESTIGATING THE CRASH, OUR JOB IS TO SEARCH FOR THAT DISAPPEARING BRIEFCASE.
AND TO DISCOVER WHY THE BODIES DON'T ADD UP.
IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ETHNIC CONFLICT...
WHICH MEANS... IN ADDITION TO THE GUERRILLAS...
WE'LL BE ENGAGING THE GOVERNMENT SIDE AS WELL...
(SFX) KYAAH
(SFX) KYAAH
!!
!!

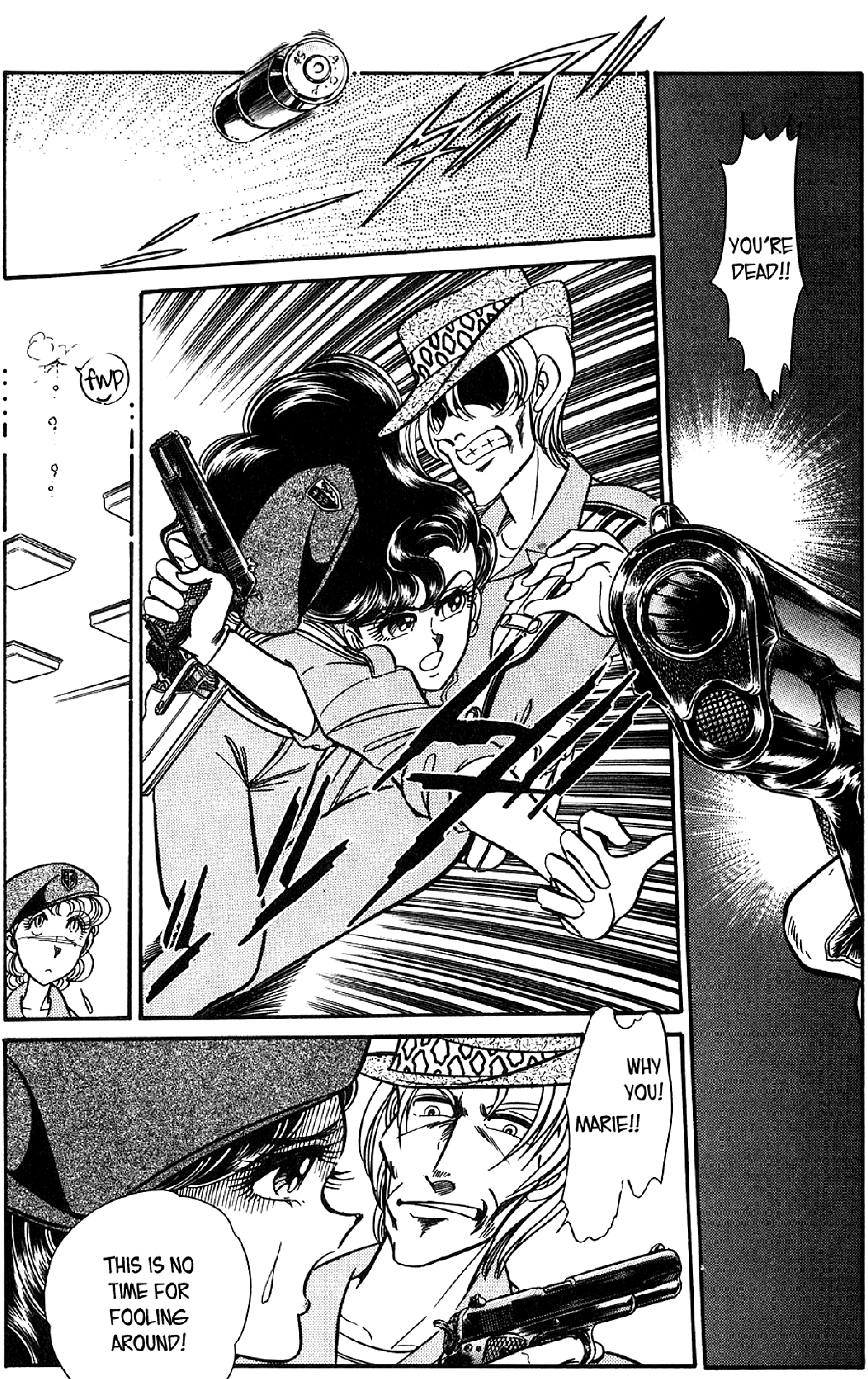

WHAT'S GOING ON!? WHAT'S ALL THE RUCKUS!?
IRENE!!
COM-MANDER!!
LIN!!
(SFX) KERCHAK
WHY YOU!!
NO!! STOP IT!!

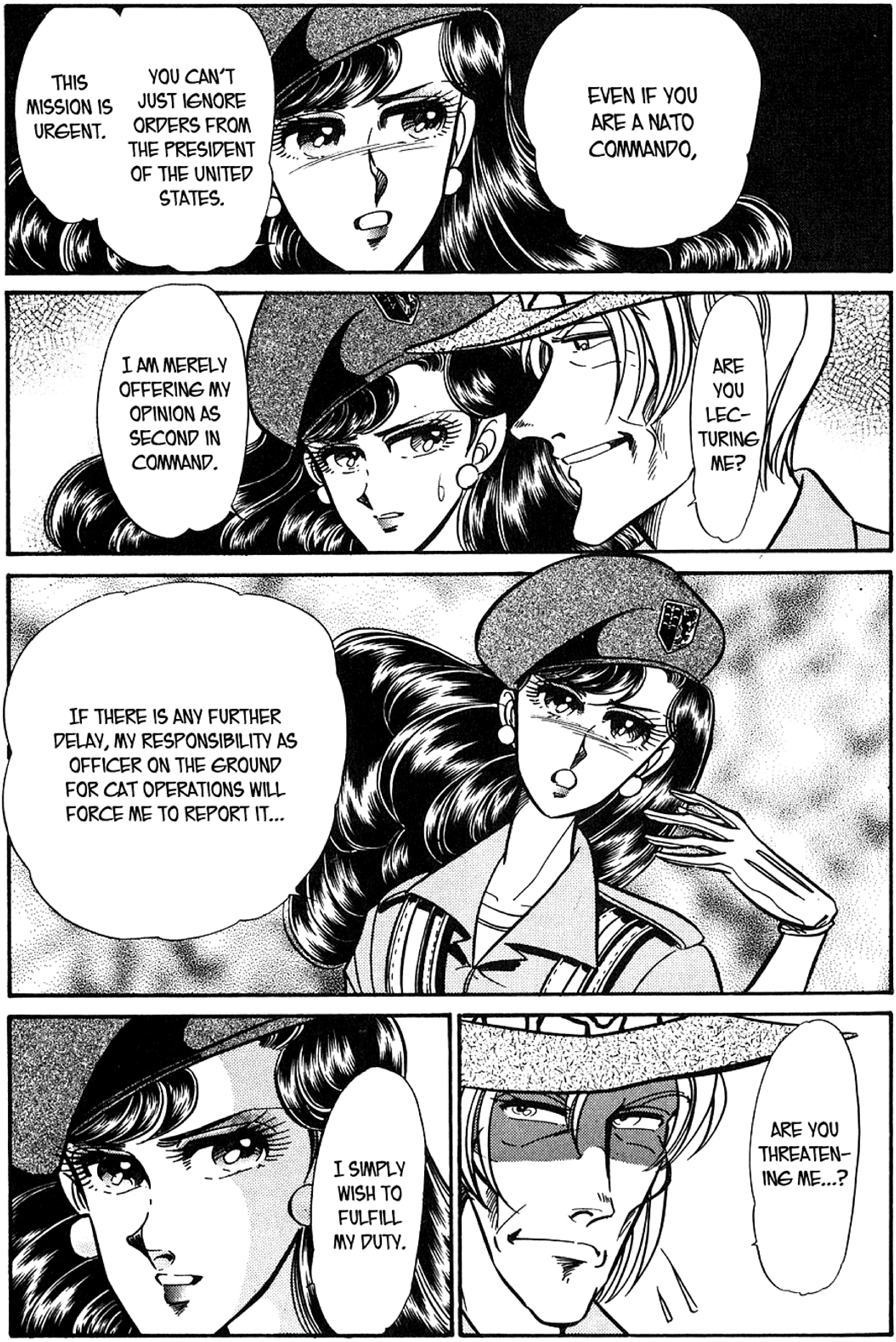
［File25：ダブル・スペード（2） おわり］

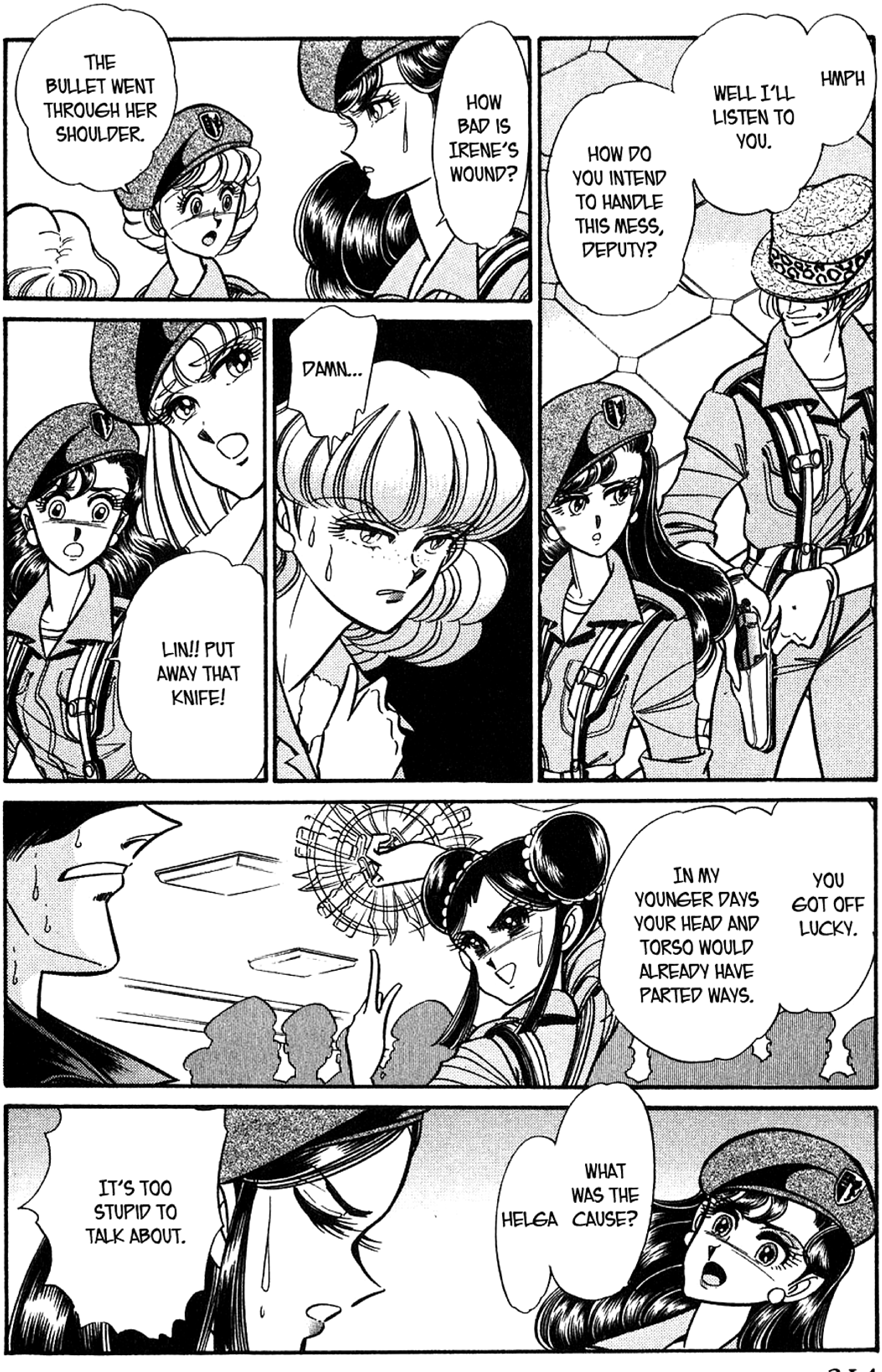
砂の薔薇

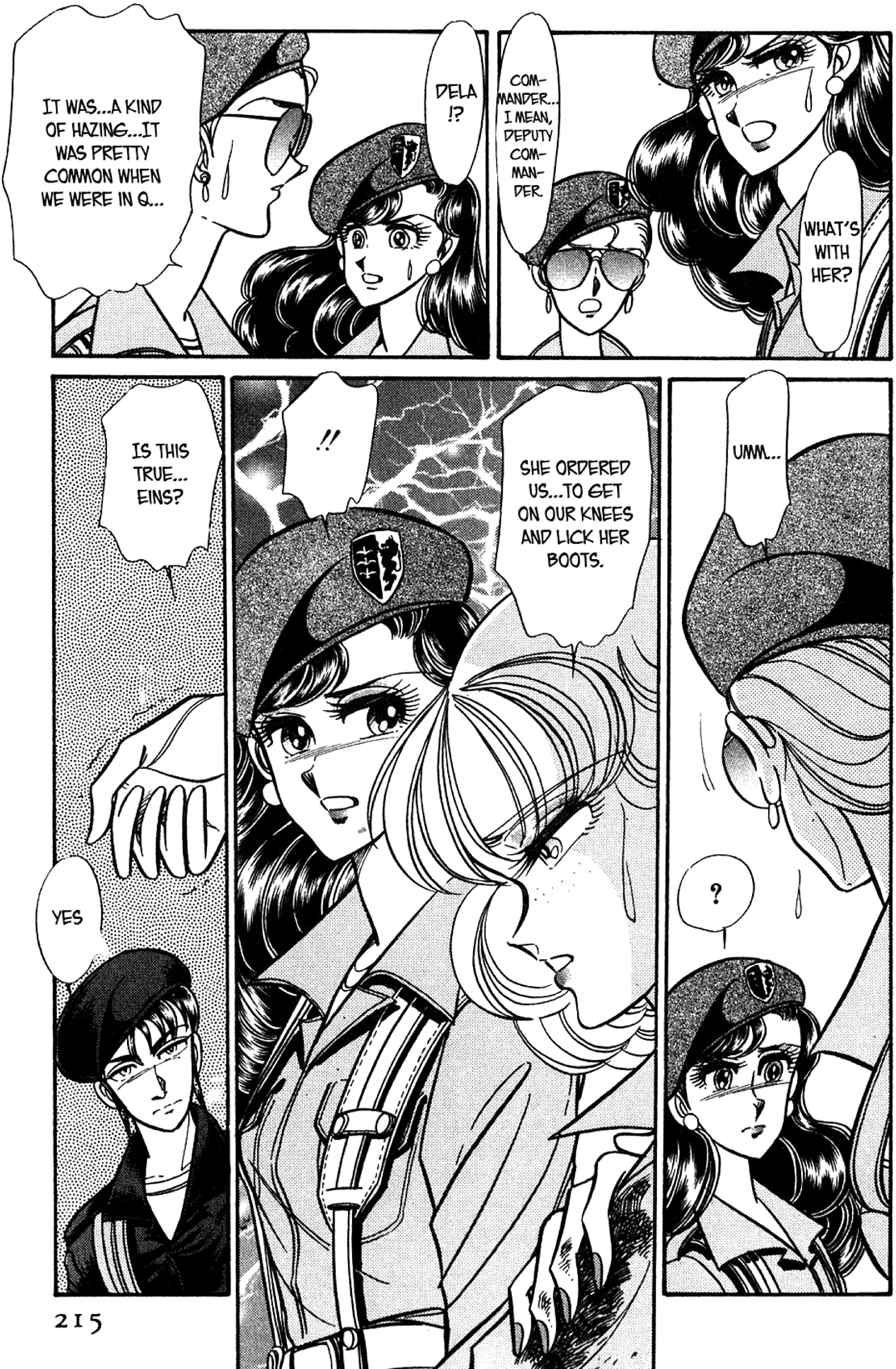
デザートーローズ

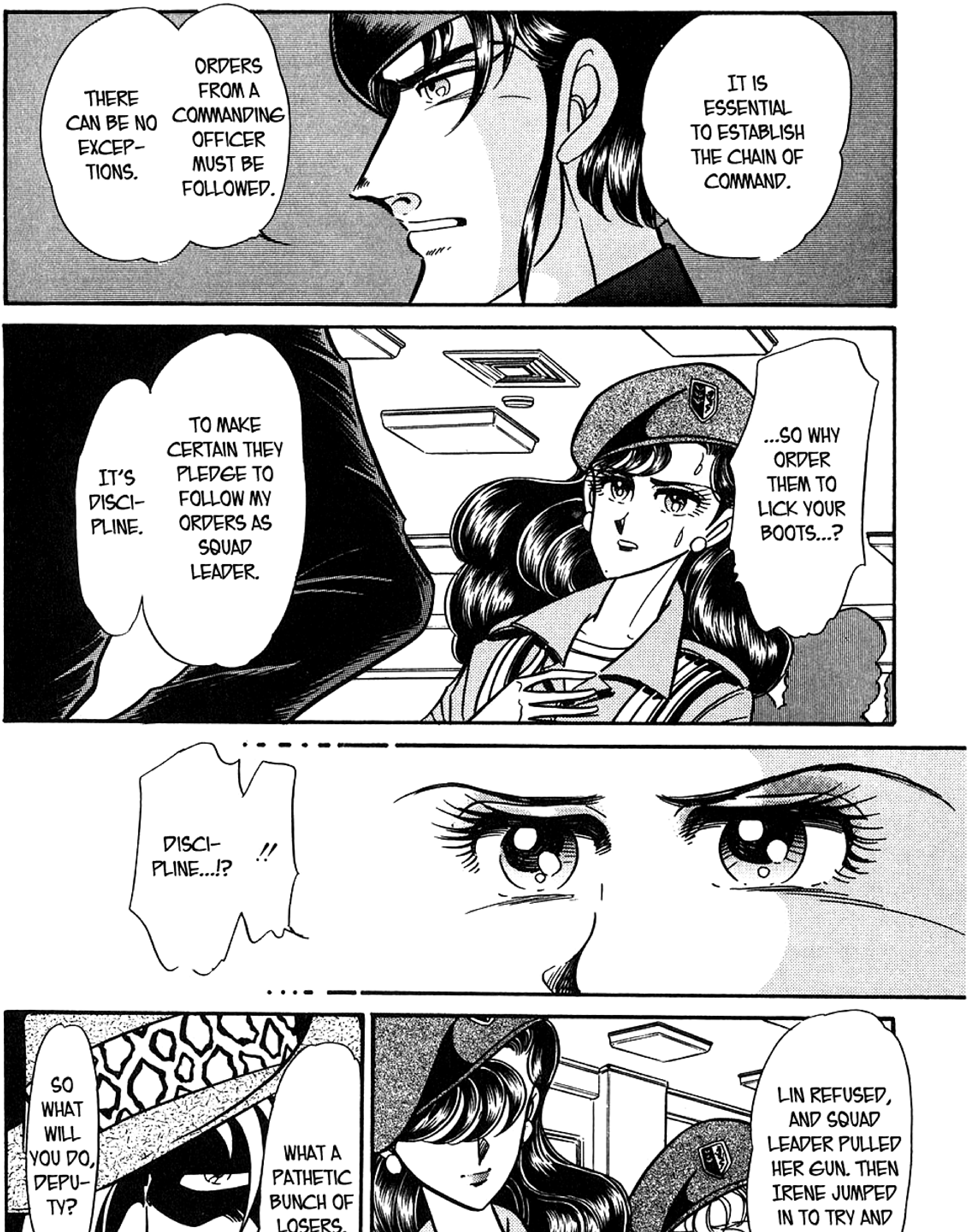
File 25: Double Spade (3)

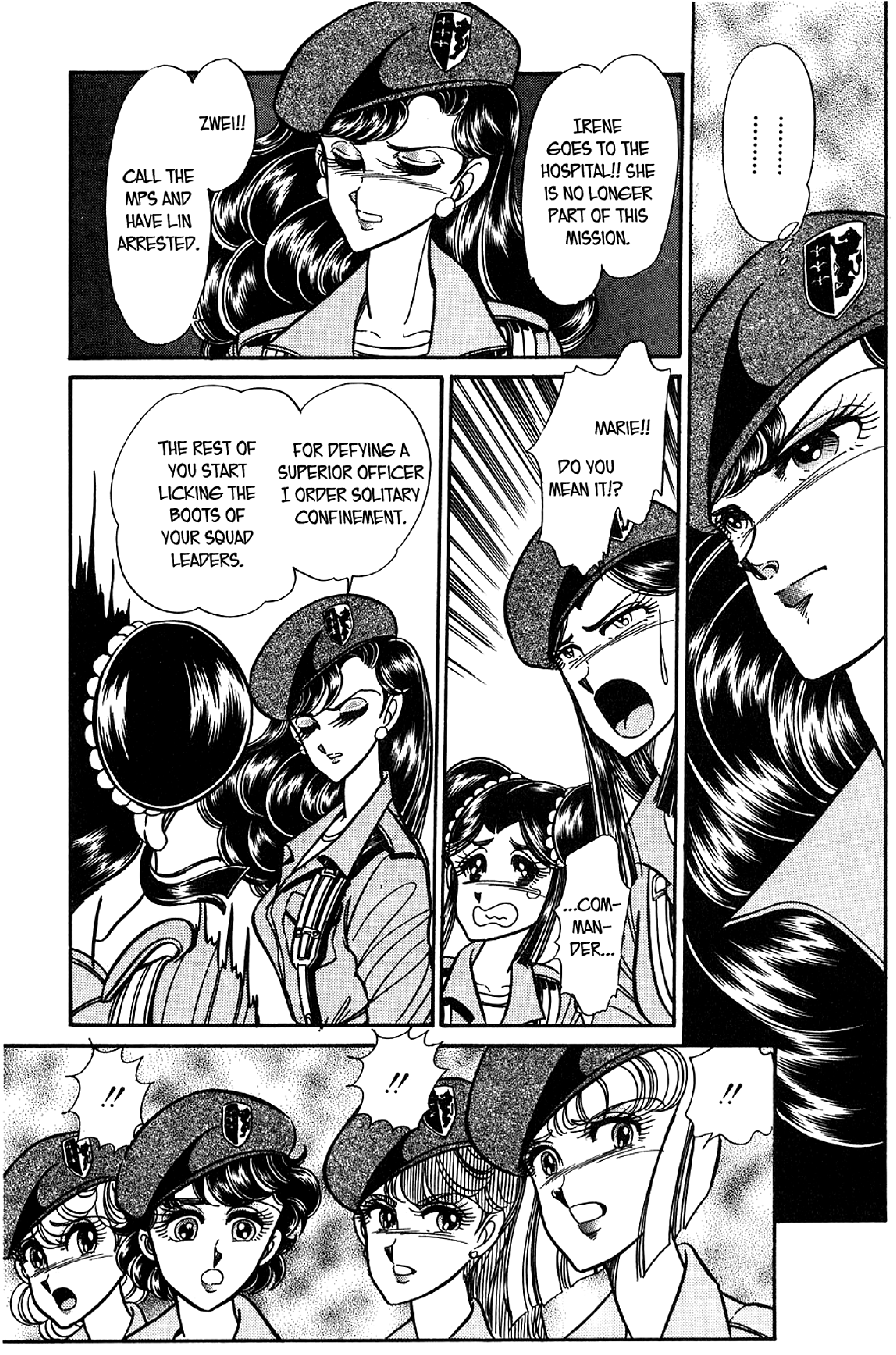

YOU'RE DEAD!!
fwp
WHY YOU!
MARIE!!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR FOOLING AROUND!

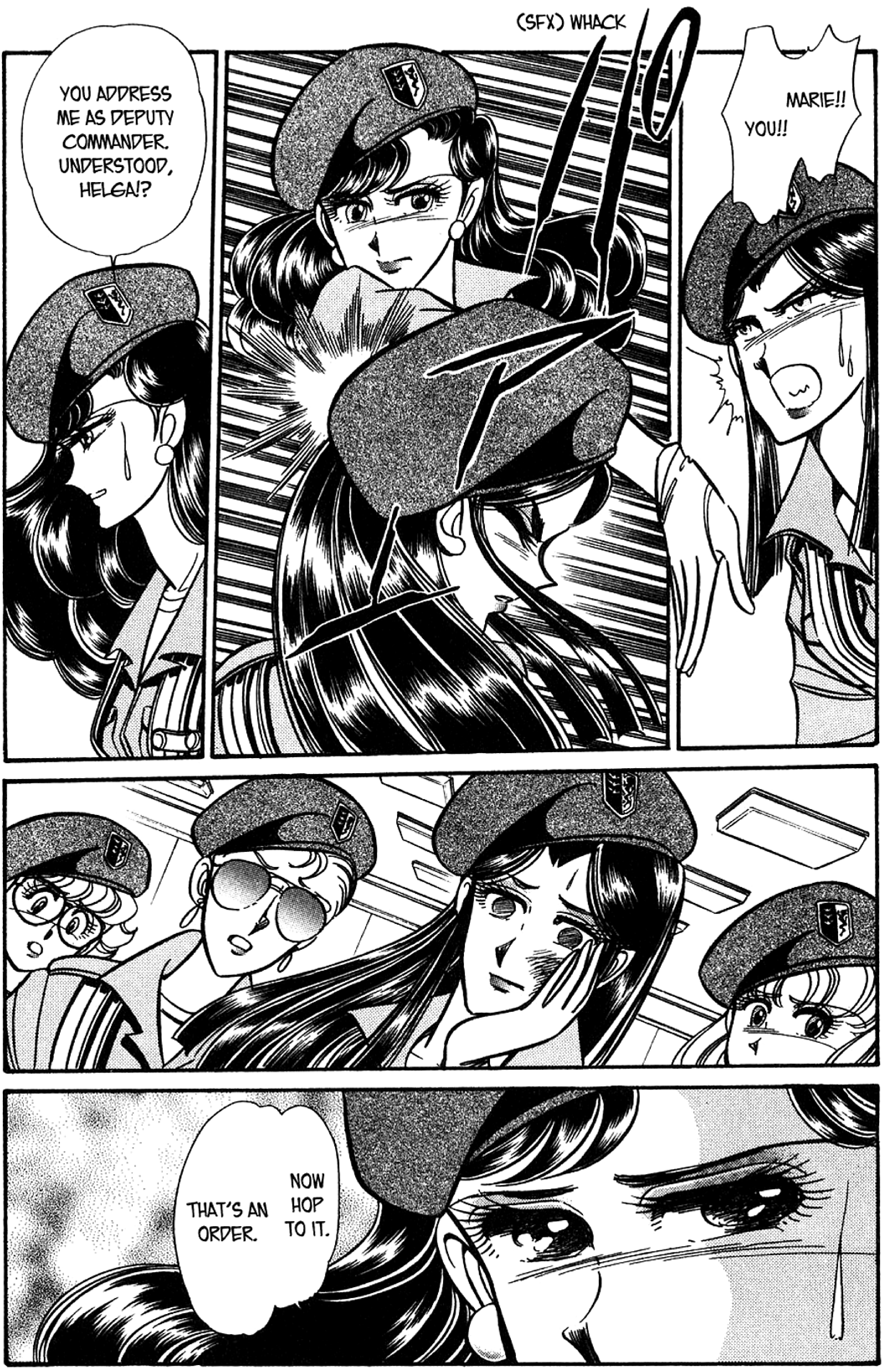

EVEN IF YOU ARE A NATO COMMANDO,
YOU CAN'T JUST IGNORE ORDERS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
THIS MISSION IS URGENT.
ARE YOU LECTURING ME?
I AM MERELY OFFERING MY OPINION AS SECOND IN COMMAND.
IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER DELAY, MY RESPONSIBILITY AS OFFICER ON THE GROUND FOR CAT OPERATIONS WILL FORCE ME TO REPORT IT...
ARE YOU THREATENING ME...?
I SIMPLY WISH TO FULFILL MY DUTY.

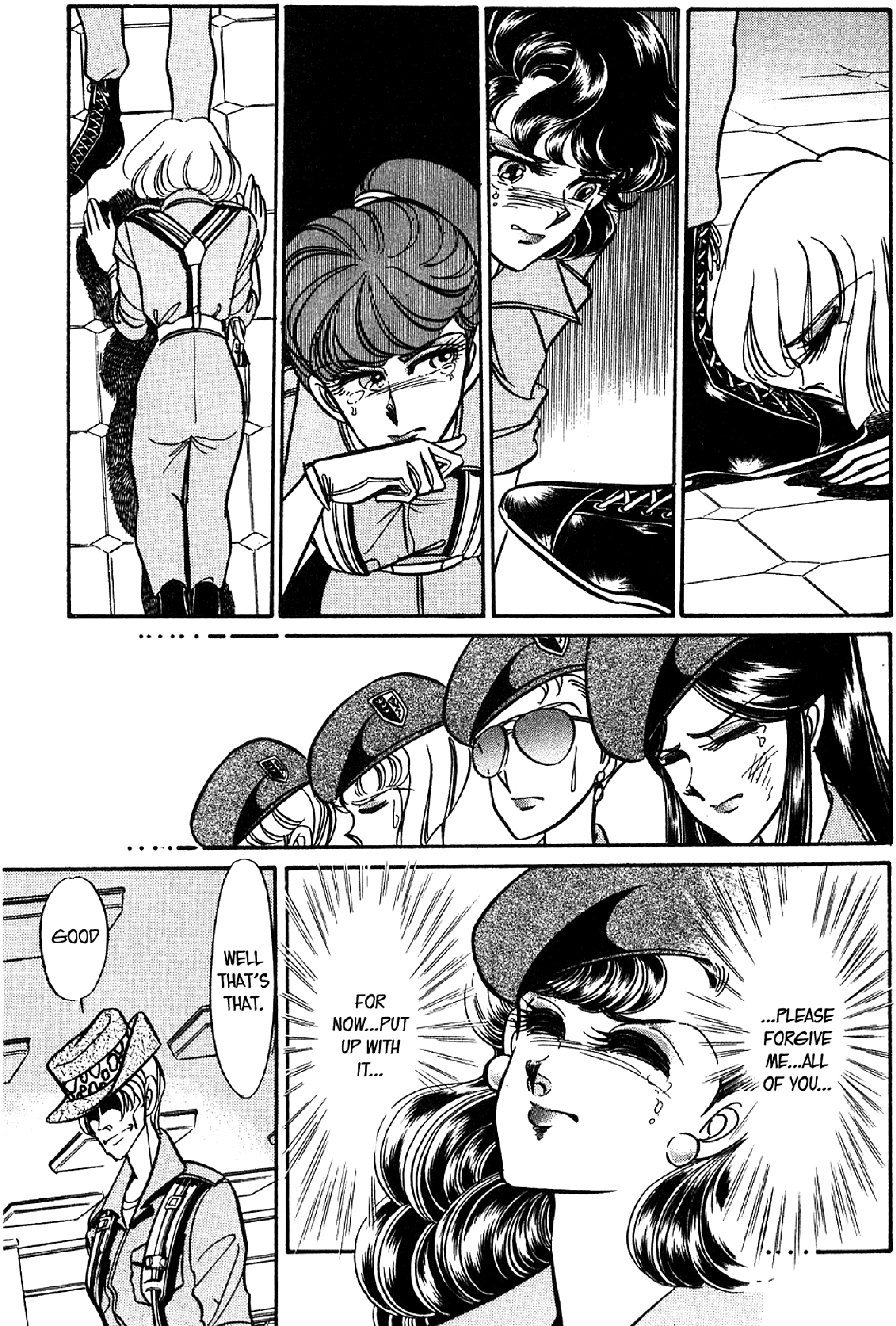

HMPH
WELL I'LL LISTEN TO YOU.
HOW DO YOU INTEND TO HANDLE THIS MESS, DEPUTY?
HOW BAD IS IRENE'S WOUND?
THE BULLET WENT THROUGH HER SHOULDER.
DAMN...
LIN!! PUT AWAY THAT KNIFE!
YOU GOT OFF LUCKY.
IN MY YOUNGER DAYS YOUR HEAD AND TORSO WOULD ALREADY HAVE PARTED WAYS.
HELGA
WHAT WAS THE CAUSE?
IT'S TOO STUPID TO TALK ABOUT.

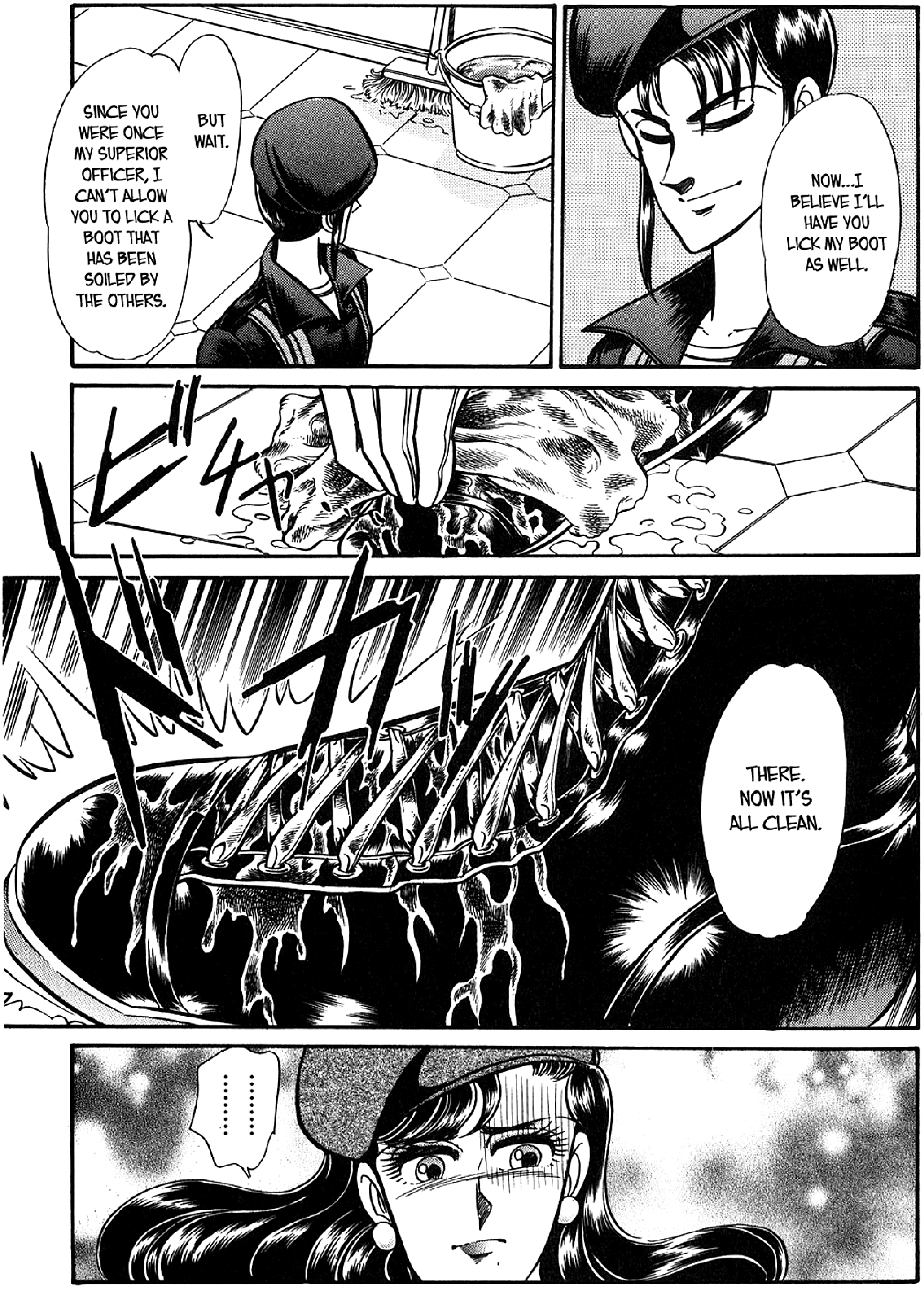

WHAT'S WITH HER?
COMMANDER... I MEAN, DEPUTY COMMANDER.
DELA !?
IT WAS...A KIND OF HAZING...IT WAS PRETTY COMMON WHEN WE WERE IN Q...
UMM...
?
SHE ORDERED US...TO GET ON OUR KNEES AND LICK HER BOOTS.
!!
IS THIS TRUE... EINS?
YES

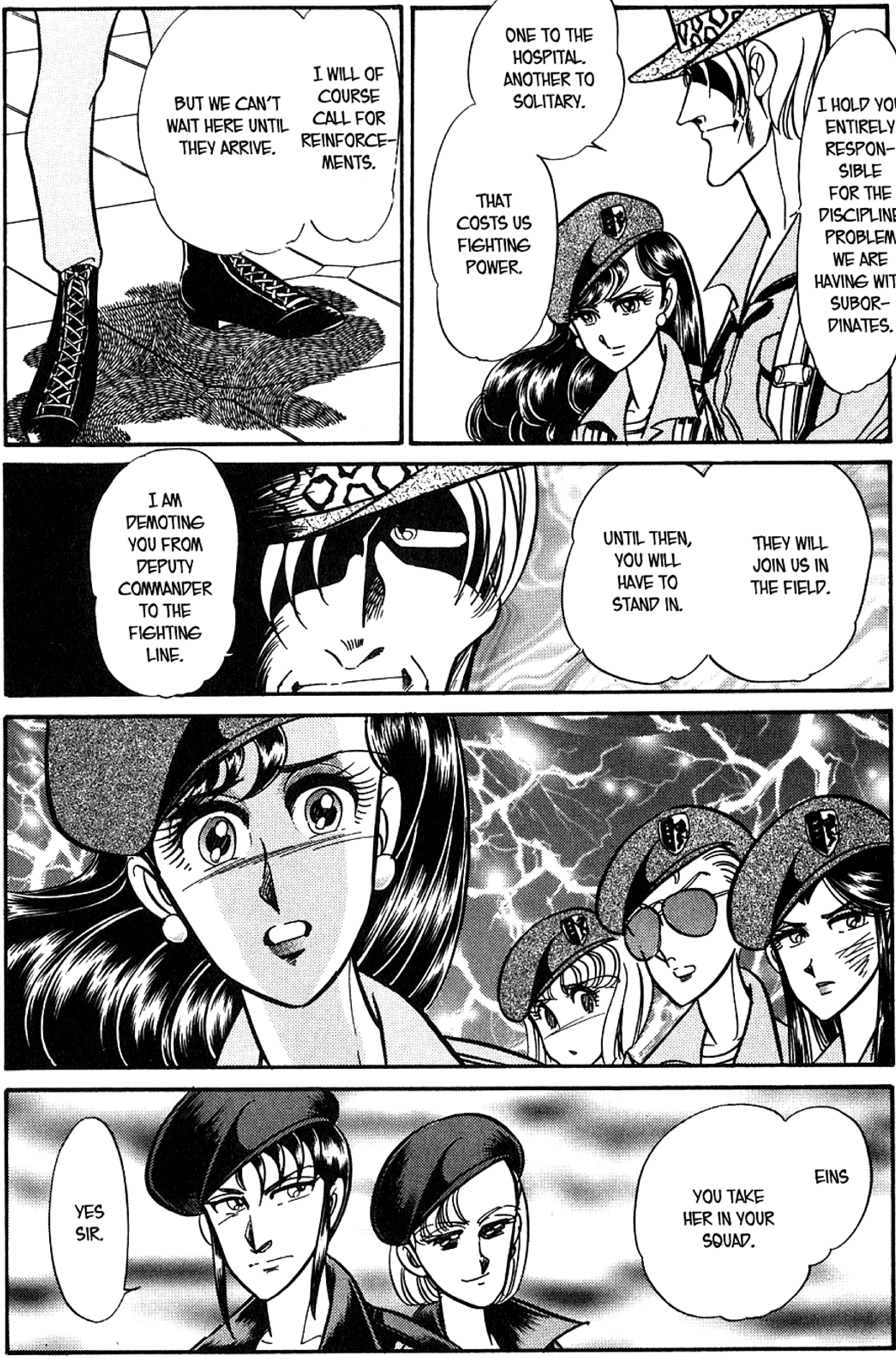

IT IS ESSENTIAL TO ESTABLISH THE CHAIN OF COMMAND.
ORDERS FROM A COMMANDING OFFICER MUST BE FOLLOWED.
THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS.
...SO WHY ORDER THEM TO LICK YOUR BOOTS...?
TO MAKE CERTAIN THEY PLEDGE TO FOLLOW MY ORDERS AS SQUAD LEADER.
IT'S DISCIPLINE.
!!
DISCIPLINE...!?
LIN REFUSED, AND SQUAD LEADER PULLED HER GUN. THEN IRENE JUMPED IN TO TRY AND STOP HER...
WHAT A PATHETIC BUNCH OF LOSERS.
SO WHAT WILL YOU DO, DEPUTY?

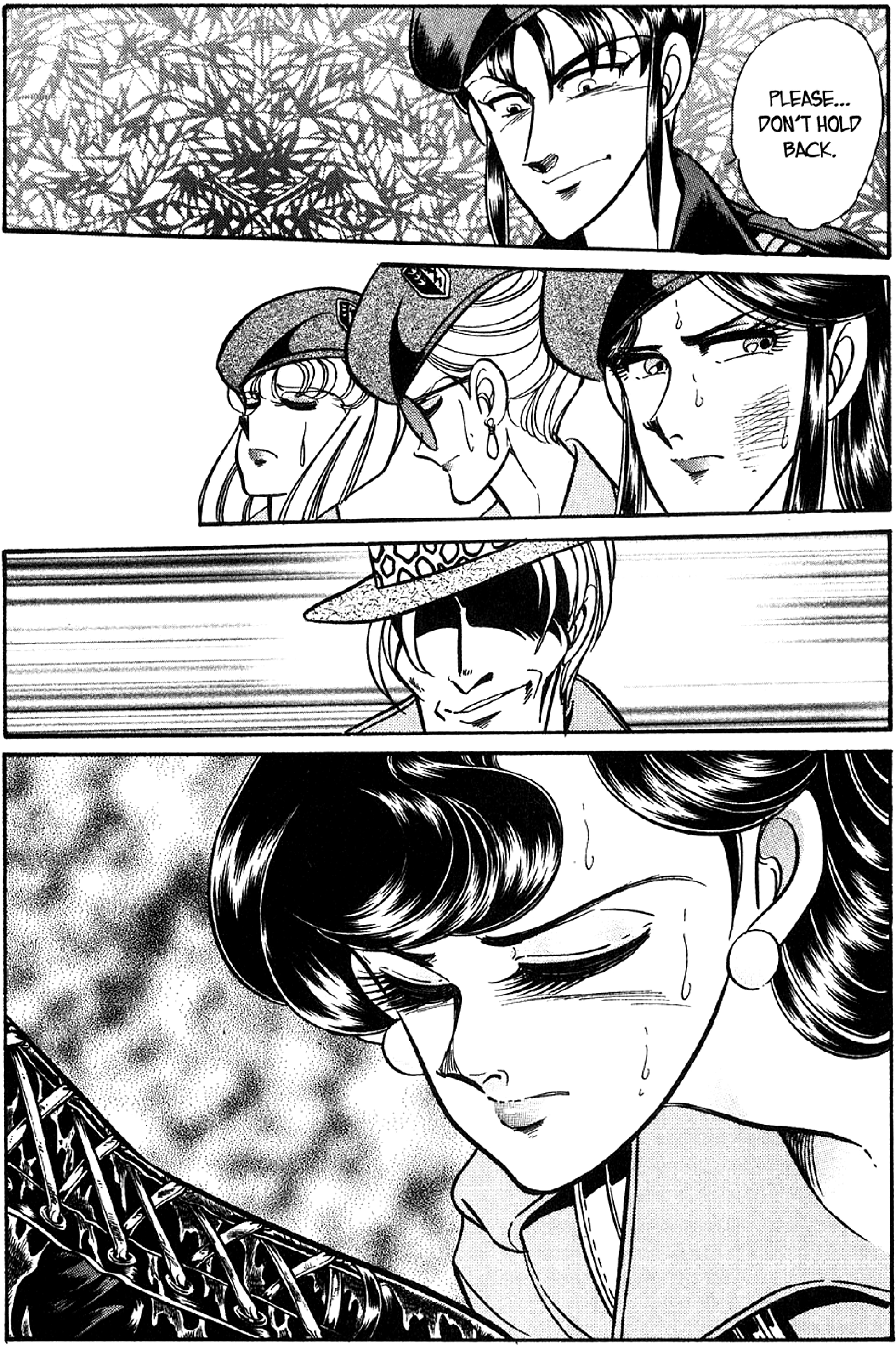

……
IRENE GOES TO THE HOSPITAL!! SHE IS NO LONGER PART OF THIS MISSION.
ZWEI!!
CALL THE MPS AND HAVE LIN ARRESTED.
MARIE!!
DO YOU MEAN IT!?
...COMMANDER...
FOR DEFYING A SUPERIOR OFFICER I ORDER SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.
THE REST OF YOU START LICKING THE BOOTS OF YOUR SQUAD LEADERS.
!!
!!
!!


MARIE!!
YOU!!
(SFX) WHACK
YOU ADDRESS ME AS DEPUTY COMMANDER. UNDERSTOOD, HELGA!?
NOW HOP TO IT.
THAT'S AN ORDER.


...PLEASE FORGIVE ME...ALL OF YOU...
FOR NOW...PUT UP WITH IT...
WELL THAT'S THAT.
GOOD


NOW...I BELIEVE I'LL HAVE YOU LICK MY BOOT AS WELL.
BUT WAIT.
SINCE YOU WERE ONCE MY SUPERIOR OFFICER, I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO LICK A BOOT THAT HAS BEEN SOILED BY THE OTHERS.
ビチャ
THERE. NOW IT'S ALL CLEAN.
……

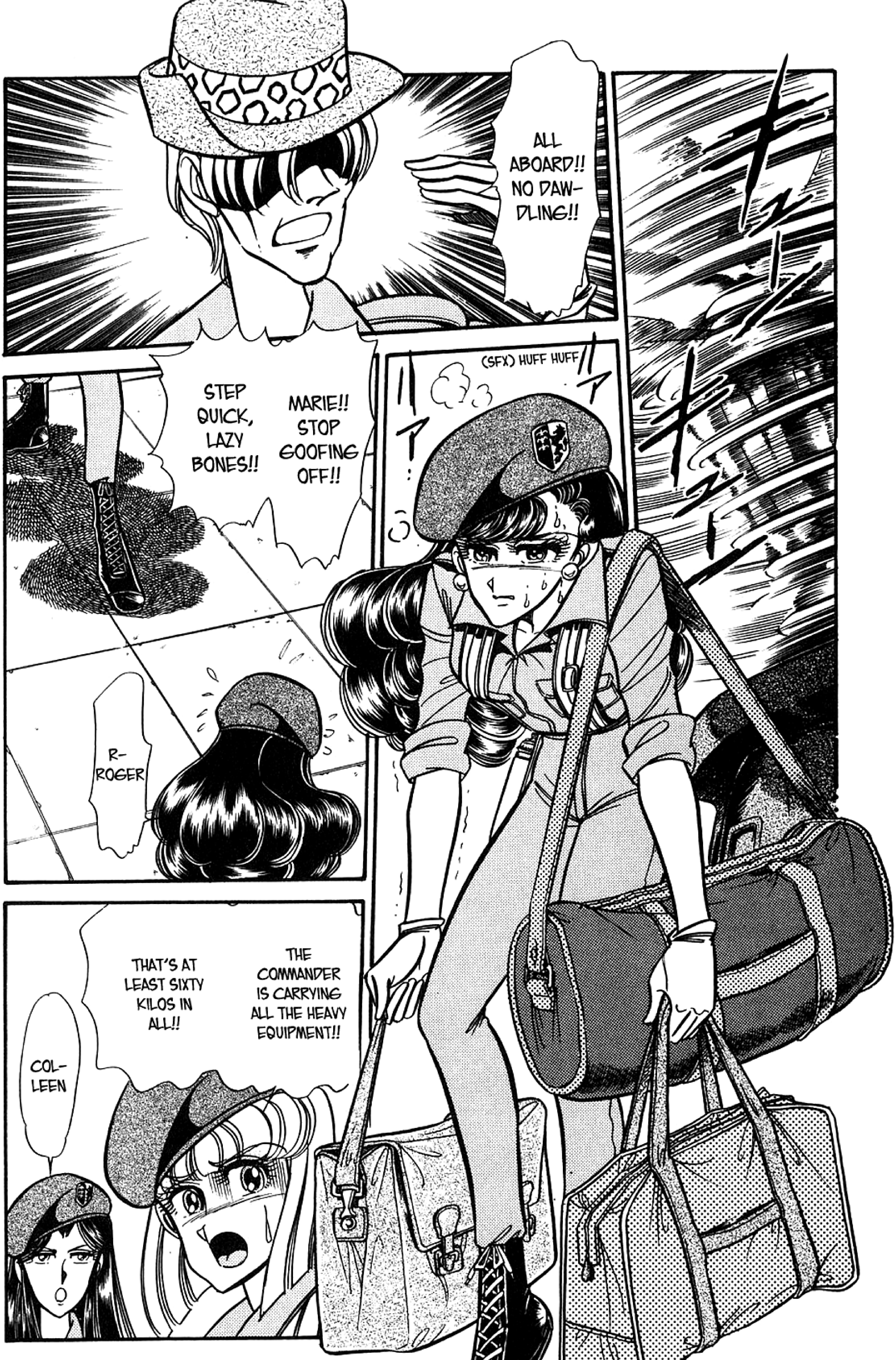

I HOLD YOU ENTIRELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISCIPLINE PROBLEM WE ARE HAVING WITH SUBORDINATES.
ONE TO THE HOSPITAL. ANOTHER TO SOLITARY.
THAT COSTS US FIGHTING POWER.
I WILL OF COURSE CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS.
BUT WE CAN'T WAIT HERE UNTIL THEY ARRIVE.
THEY WILL JOIN US IN THE FIELD.
UNTIL THEN, YOU WILL HAVE TO STAND IN.
I AM DEMOTING YOU FROM DEPUTY COMMANDER TO THE FIGHTING LINE.
EINS
YOU TAKE HER IN YOUR SQUAD.
YES SIR.

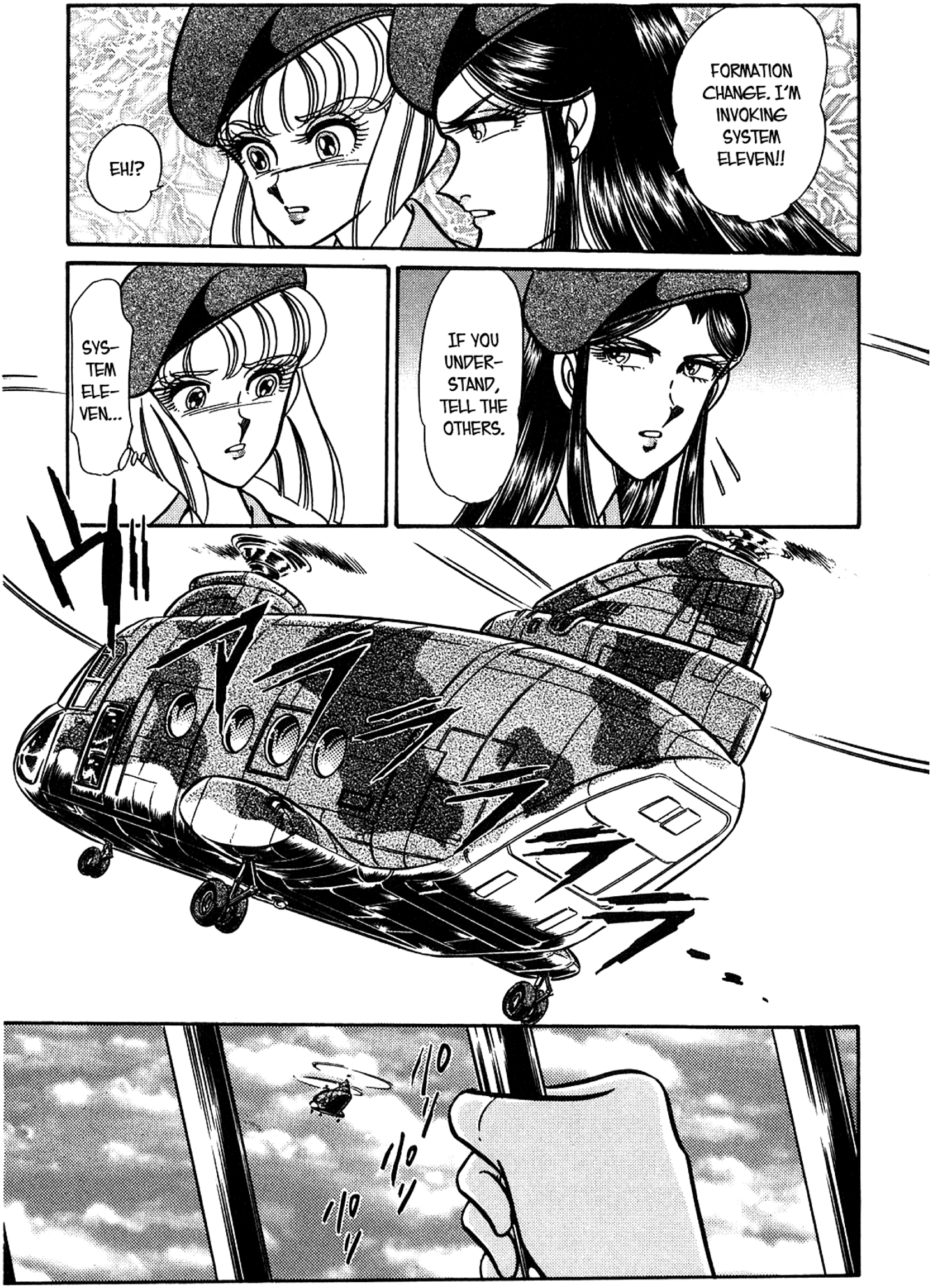

PLEASE... DON'T HOLD BACK.

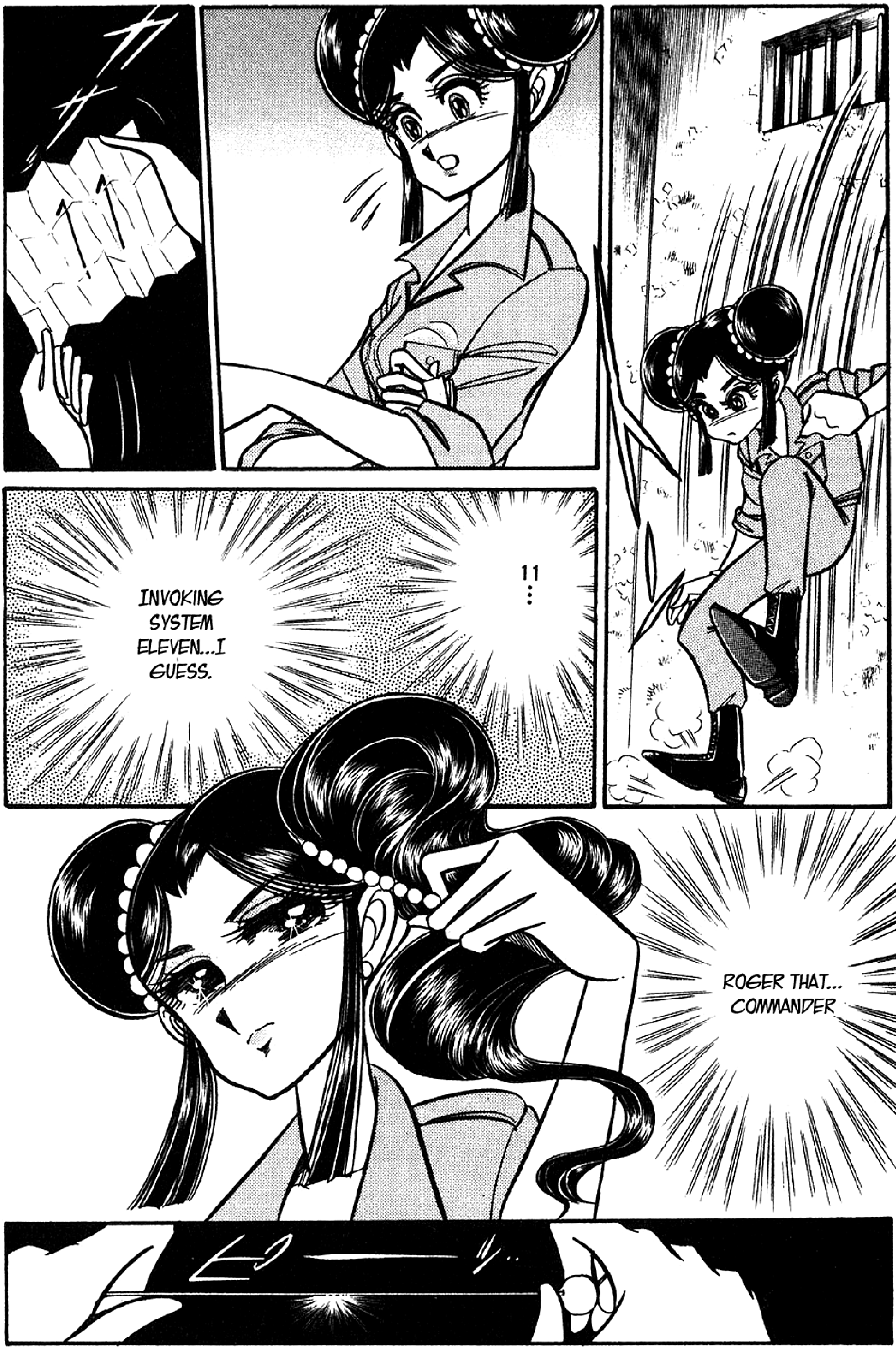
［File25：ダブル・スペード（３）　おわり］

砂の薔薇
デザート・ローズ

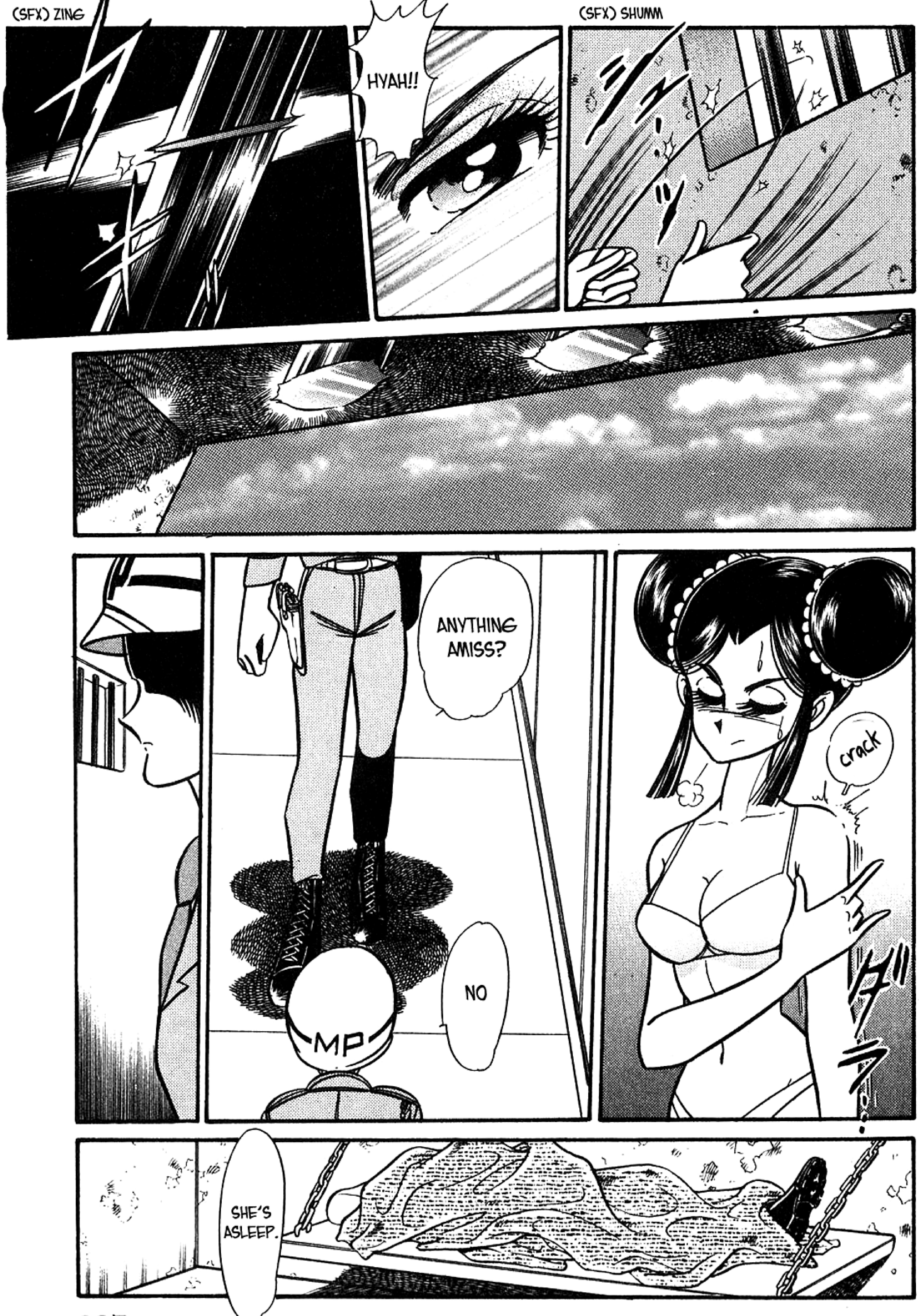
File 25: Double Spade (4)

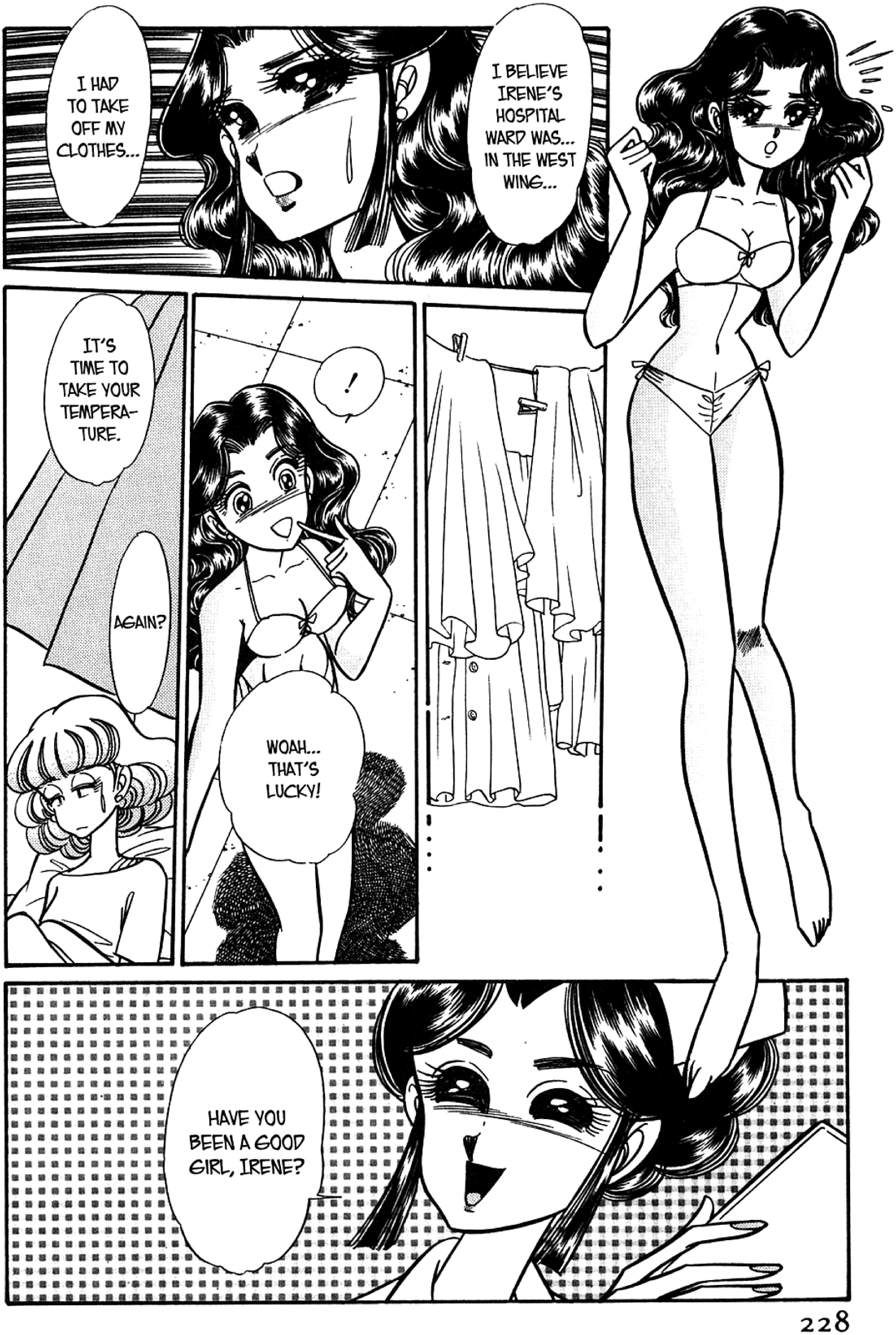

ALL ABOARD!! NO DAWDLING!!
MARIE!! STOP GOOFING OFF!!
STEP QUICK, LAZY BONES!!
(SFX) HUFF HUFF
R-ROGER
THE COMMANDER IS CARRYING ALL THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT!!
THAT'S AT LEAST SIXTY KILOS IN ALL!!
COLLEEN

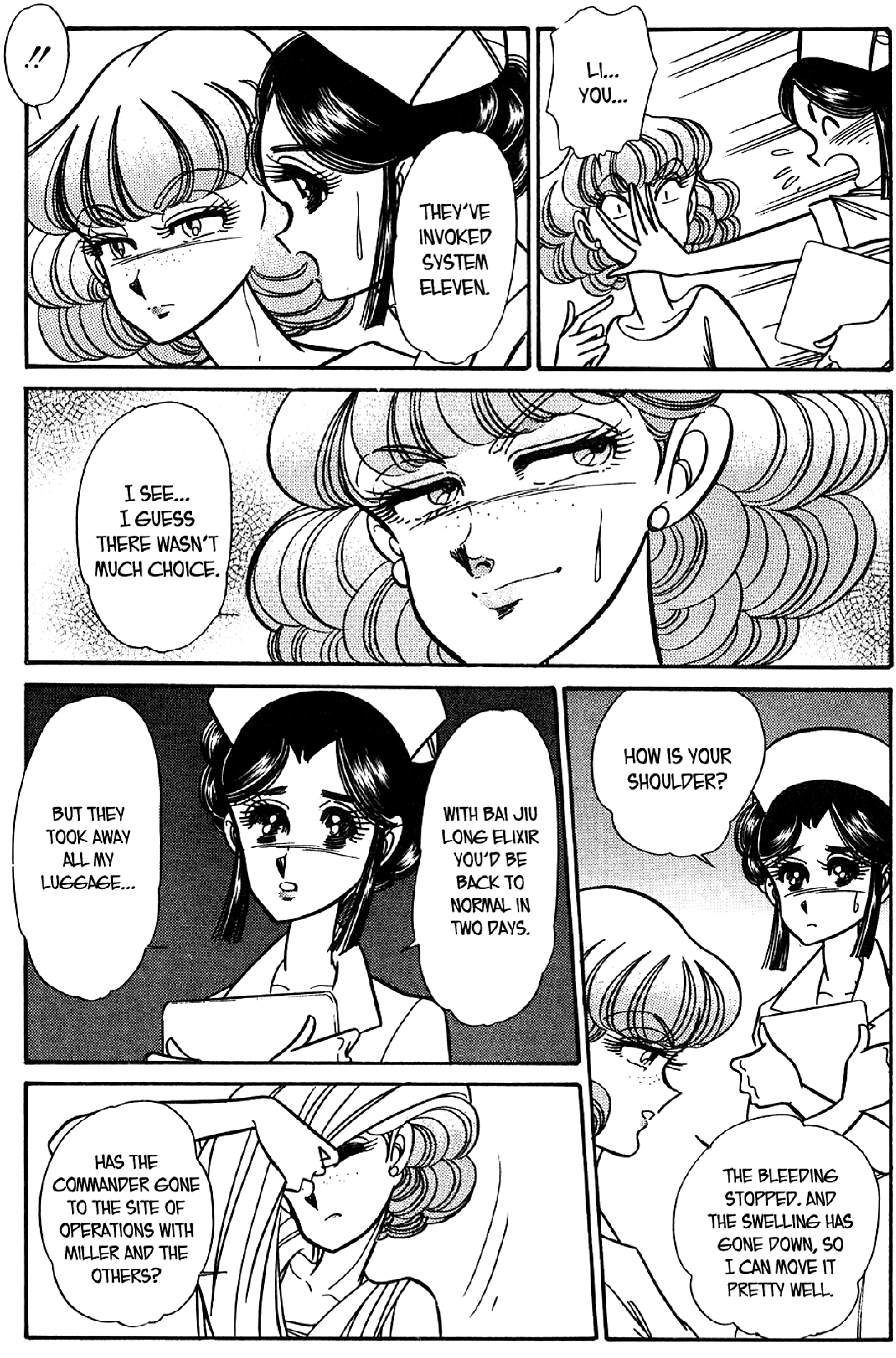

FORMATION CHANGE. I'M INVOKING SYSTEM ELEVEN!!
EH!?
IF YOU UNDERSTAND, TELL THE OTHERS.
SYSTEM ELEVEN...

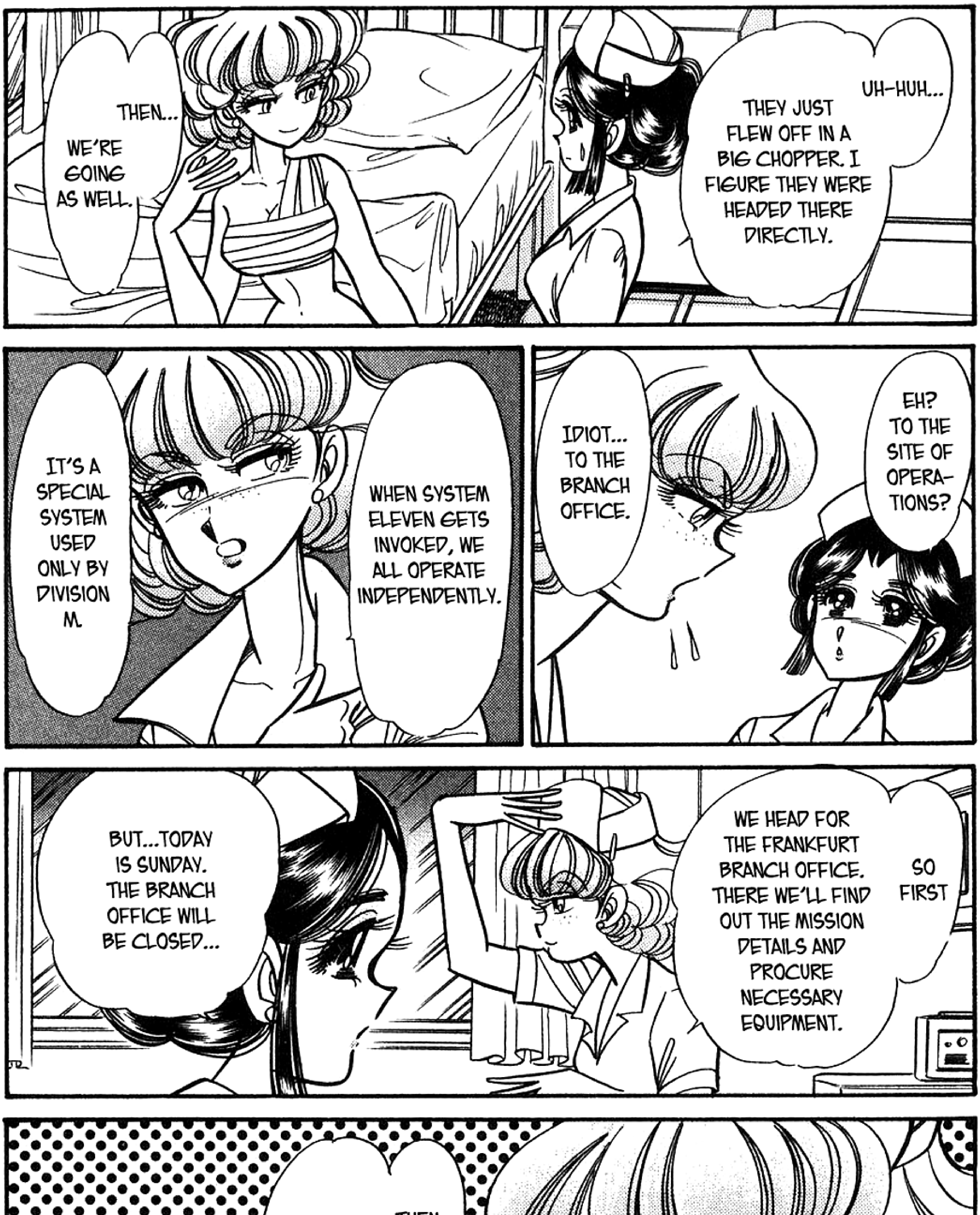

11…
INVOKING SYSTEM ELEVEN...I GUESS.
ROGER THAT... COMMANDER

(SFX) PING


(SFX) ZING
HYAH!!
(SFX) SHUMM
ANYTHING AMISS?
NO
crack
SHE'S ASLEEP.


I BELIEVE IRENE'S HOSPITAL WARD WAS... IN THE WEST WING...
I HAD TO TAKE OFF MY CLOTHES...
!
IT'S TIME TO TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE.
AGAIN?
WOAH... THAT'S LUCKY!
HAVE YOU BEEN A GOOD GIRL, IRENE?

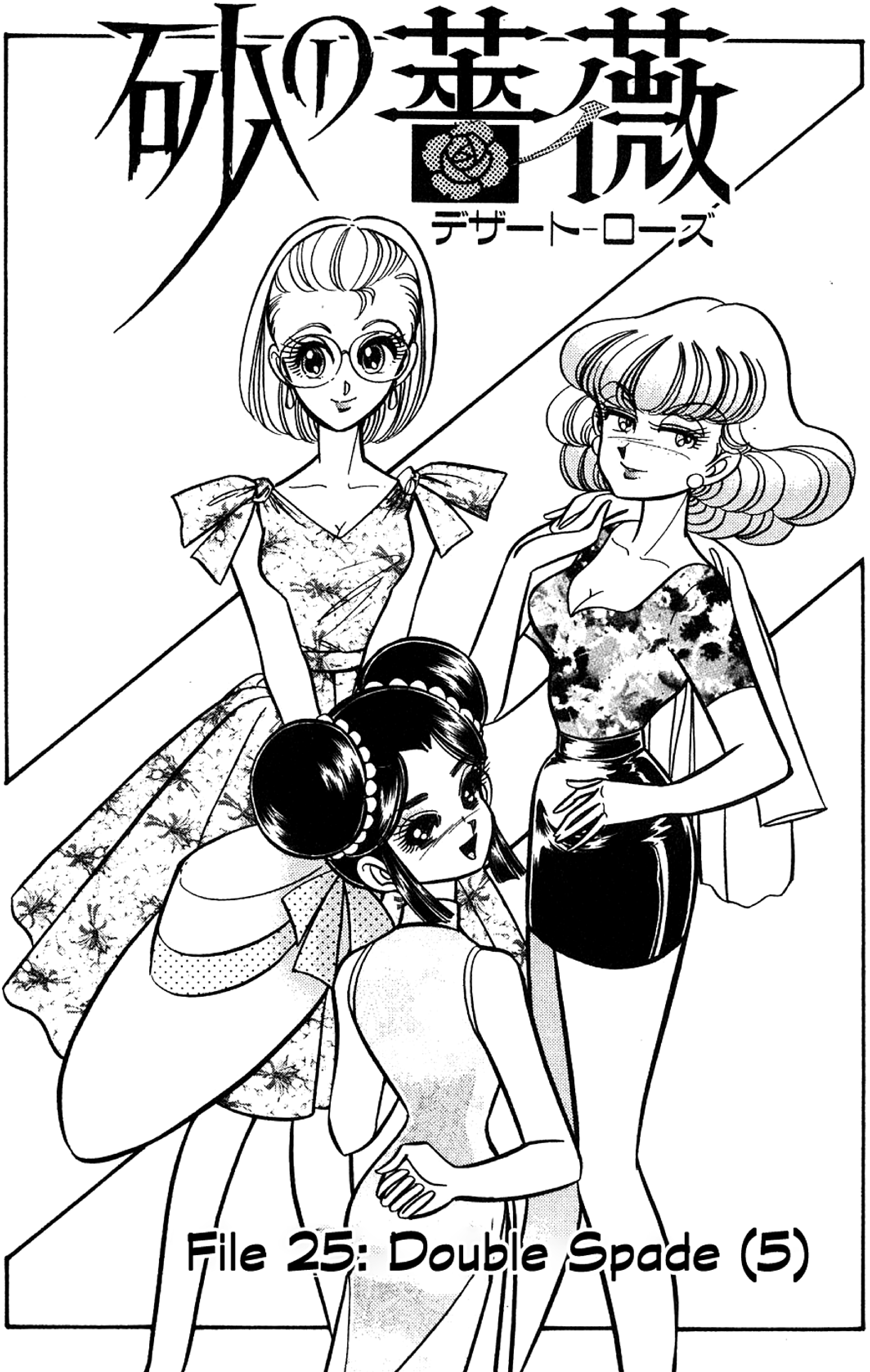

LI... YOU...
THEY'VE INVOKED SYSTEM ELEVEN.
!!
I SEE... I GUESS THERE WASN'T MUCH CHOICE.
HOW IS YOUR SHOULDER?
THE BLEEDING STOPPED. AND THE SWELLING HAS GONE DOWN, SO I CAN MOVE IT PRETTY WELL.
WITH BAI JIU LONG ELIXIR YOU'D BE BACK TO NORMAL IN TWO DAYS.
BUT THEY TOOK AWAY ALL MY LUGGAGE...
HAS THE COMMANDER GONE TO THE SITE OF OPERATIONS WITH MILLER AND THE OTHERS?


UH-HUH... THEY JUST FLEW OFF IN A BIG CHOPPER. I FIGURE THEY WERE HEADED THERE DIRECTLY.
THEN... WE'RE GOING AS WELL.
EH? TO THE SITE OF OPERATIONS?
IDIOT... TO THE BRANCH OFFICE.
WHEN SYSTEM ELEVEN GETS INVOKED, WE ALL OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY.
IT'S A SPECIAL SYSTEM USED ONLY BY DIVISION M.
SO FIRST
WE HEAD FOR THE FRANKFURT BRANCH OFFICE. THERE WE'LL FIND OUT THE MISSION DETAILS AND PROCURE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT.
BUT...TODAY IS SUNDAY. THE BRANCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED...
THEN...
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO STEAL WHAT WE NEED.

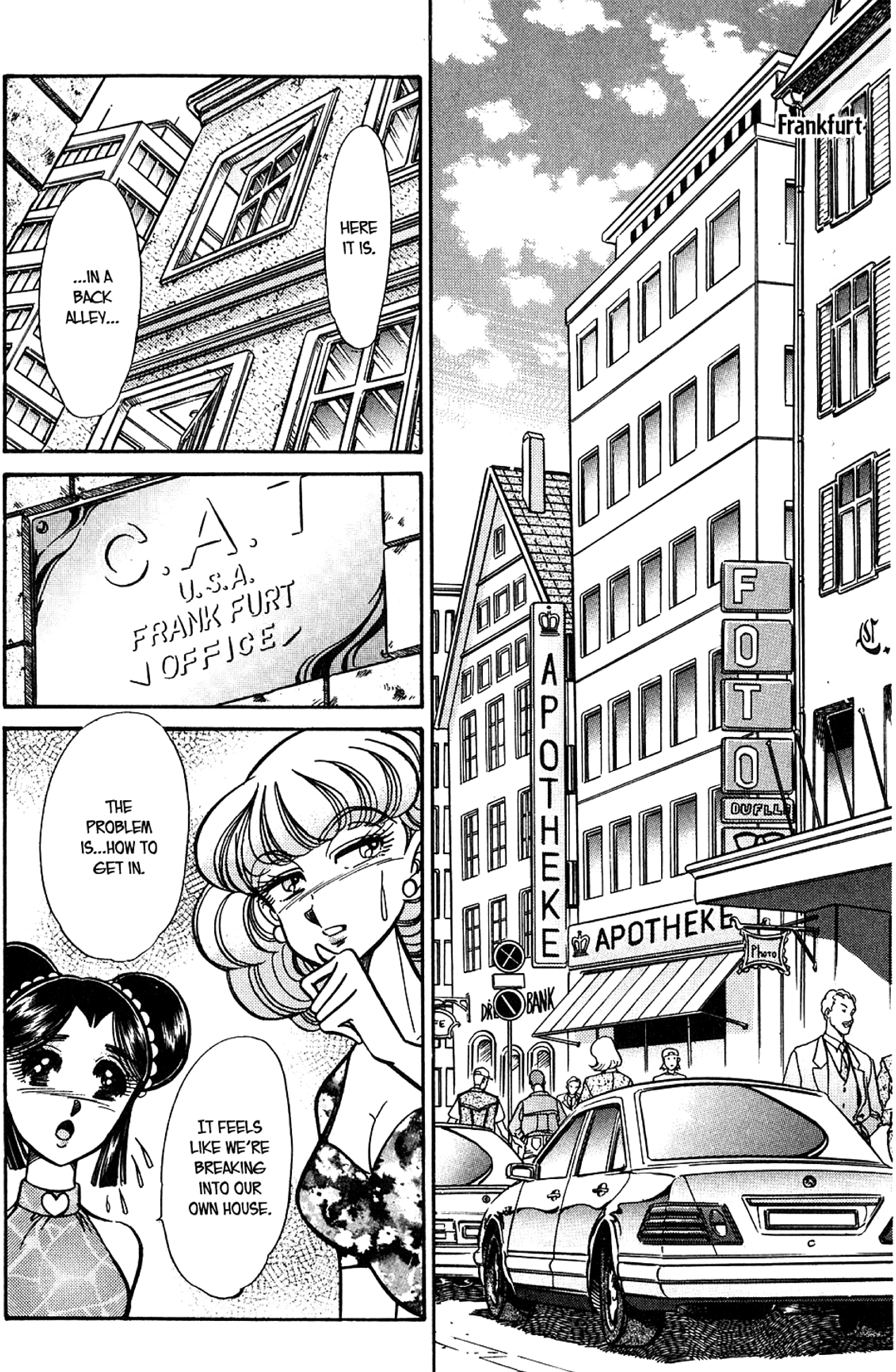
［File25：ダブル・スペード（4）　おわり］

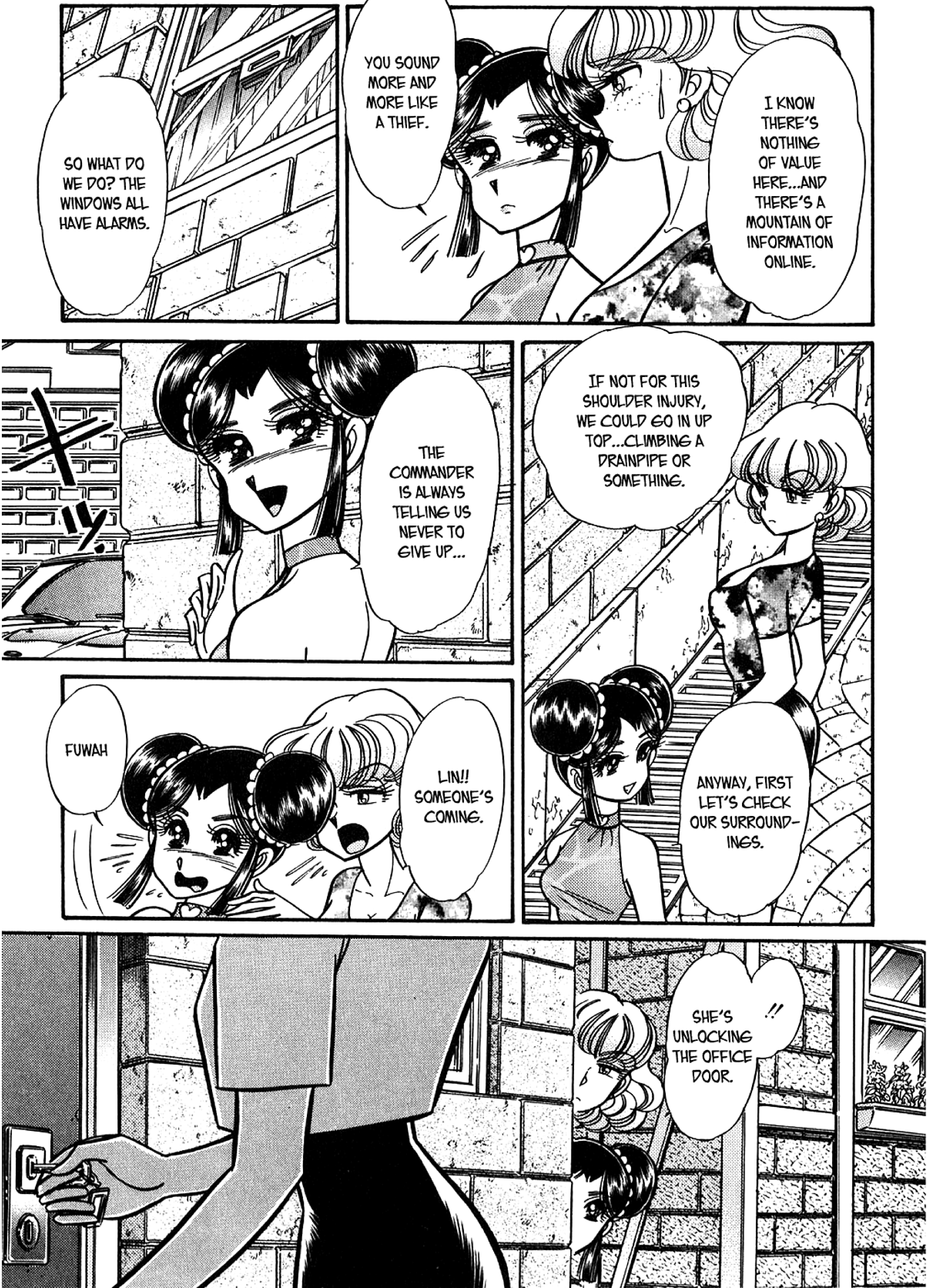
砂の薔薇

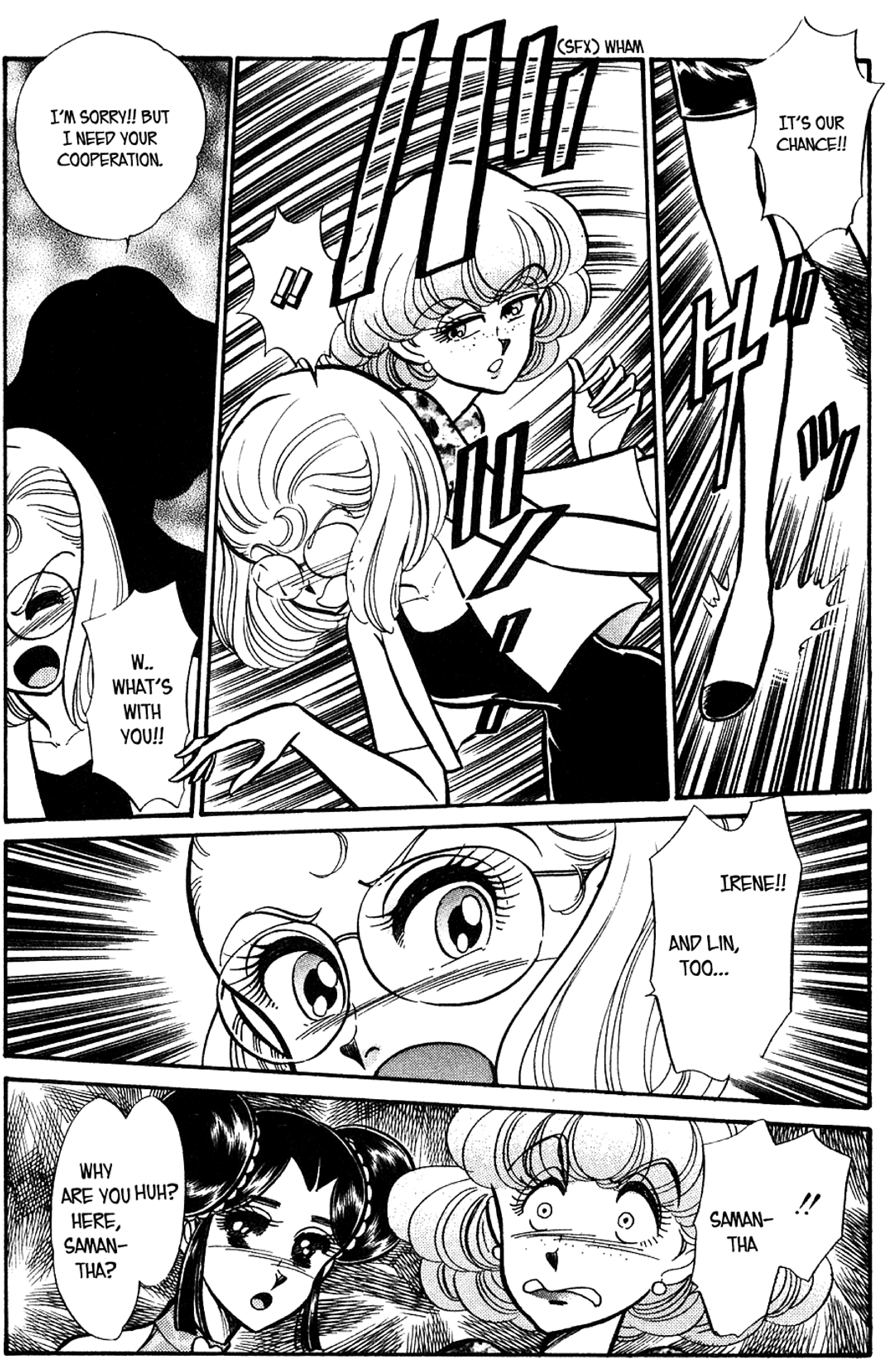
デザート・ローズ

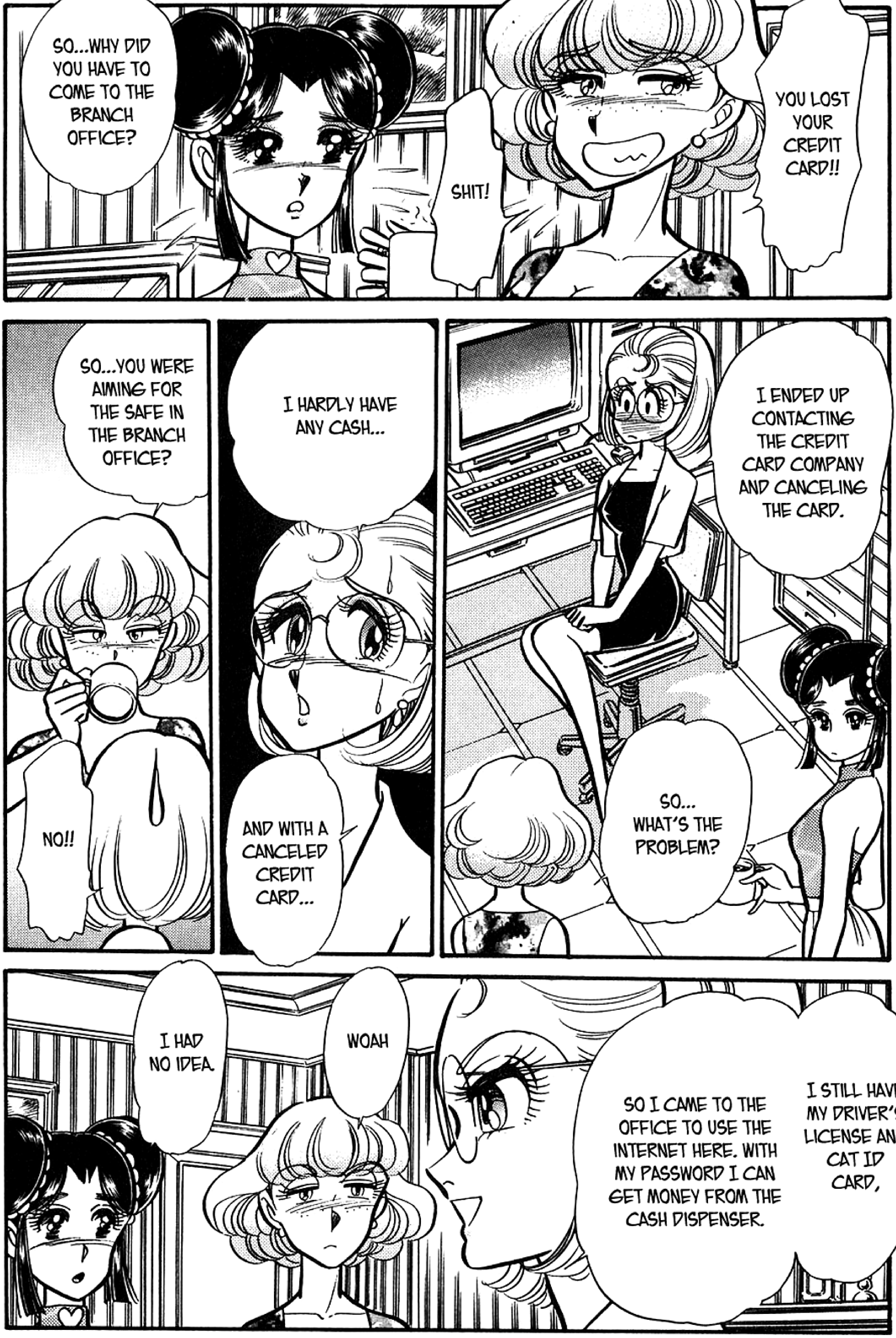


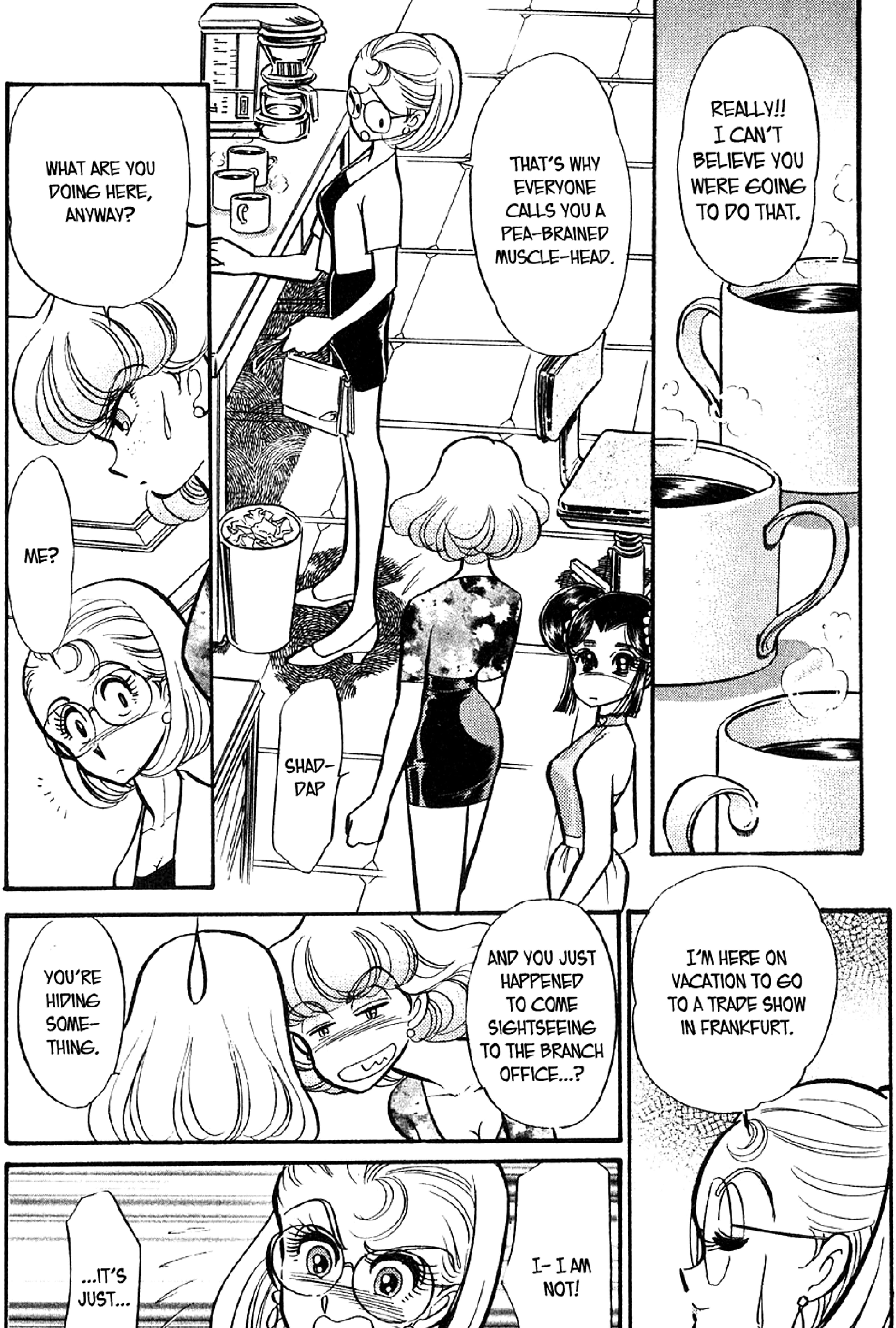
File 25: Double Spade (5)

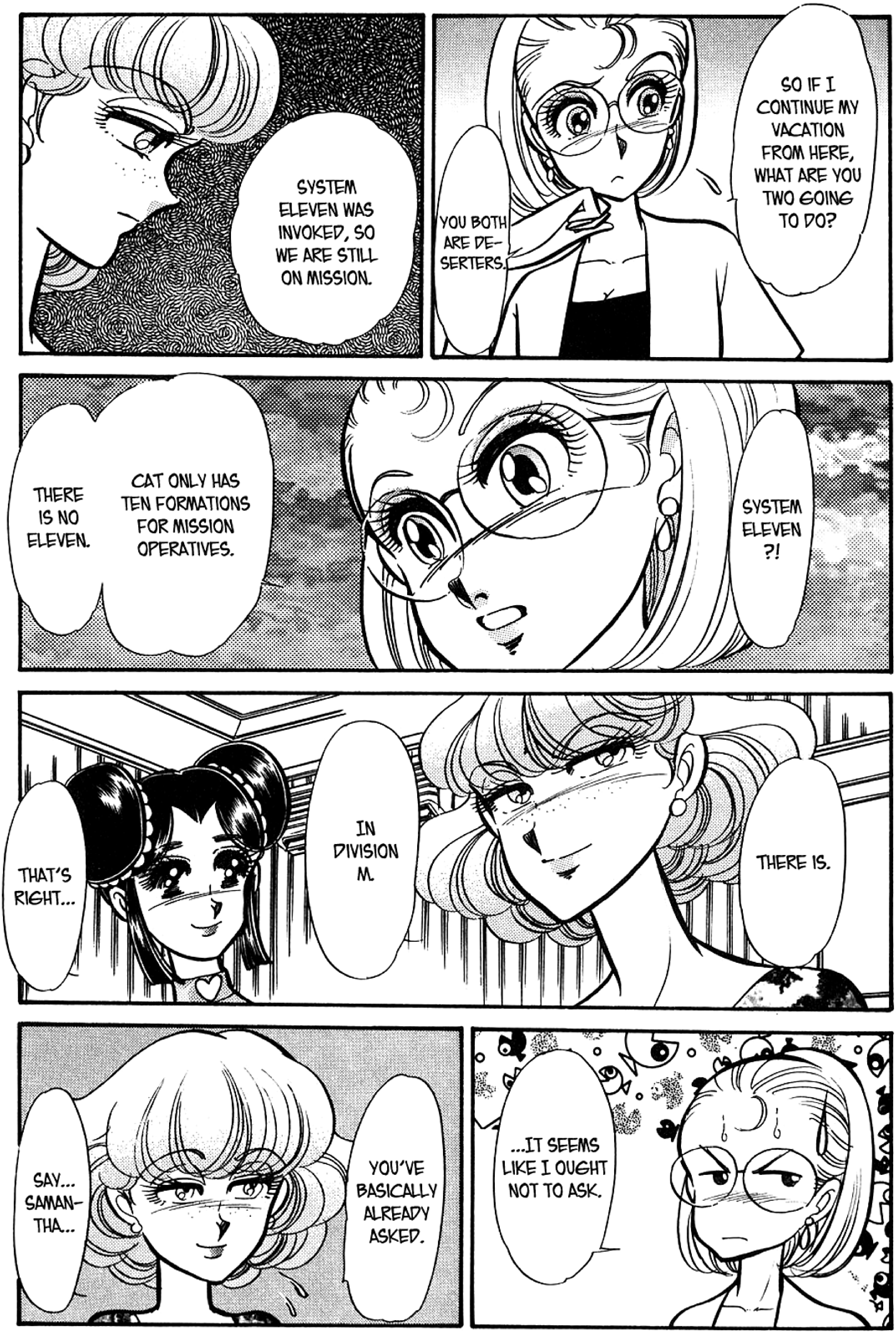

Frankfurt
FOTO
APOTHEKE
APOTHEKE
Photo
BANK
HERE IT IS.
...IN A BACK ALLEY...
C.A.
U.S.A.
FRANK FURT
OFFICE
THE PROBLEM IS...HOW TO GET IN.
IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE BREAKING INTO OUR OWN HOUSE.

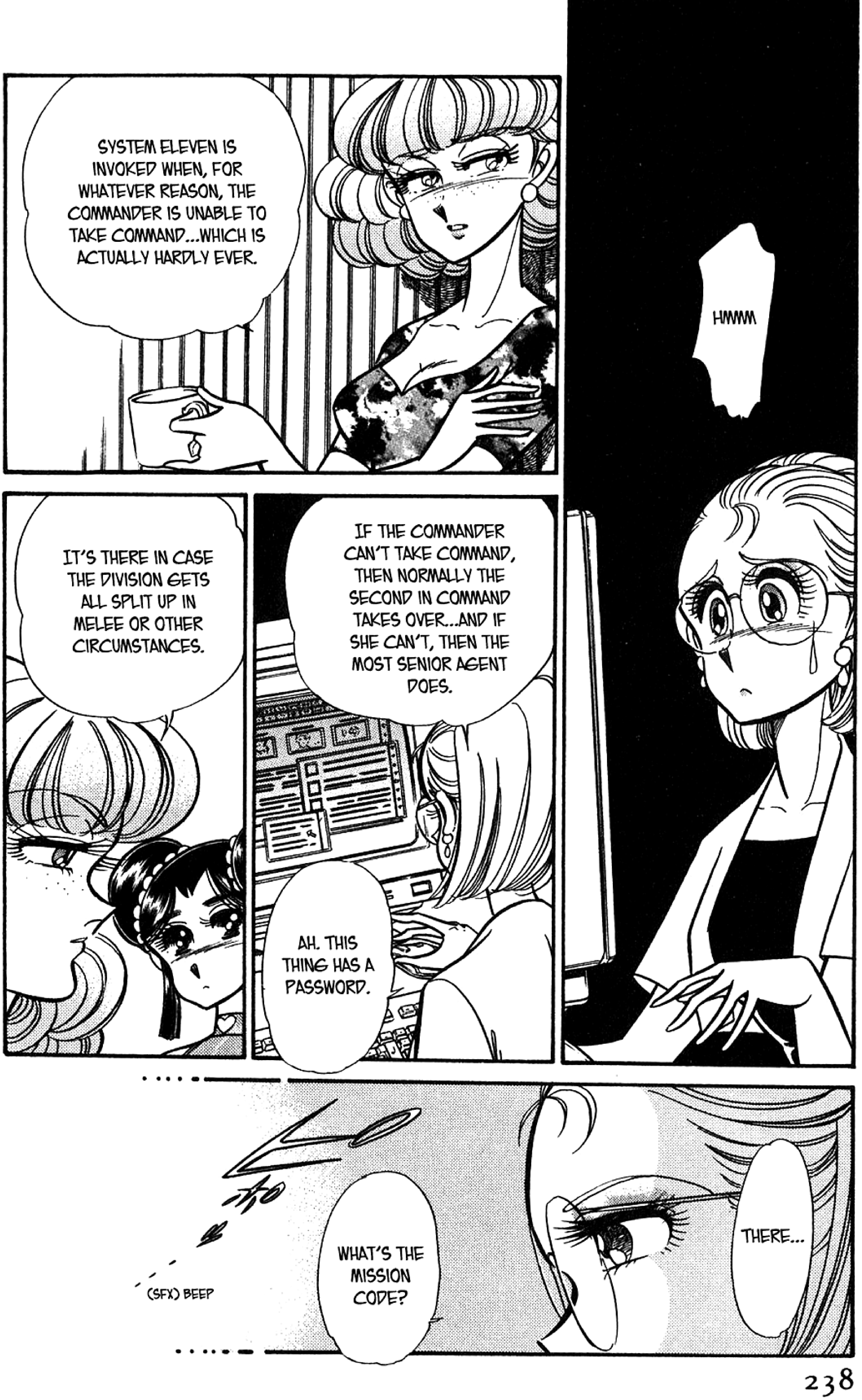

I KNOW THERE'S NOTHING OF VALUE HERE...AND THERE'S A MOUNTAIN OF INFORMATION ONLINE.
YOU SOUND MORE AND MORE LIKE A THIEF.
SO WHAT DO WE DO? THE WINDOWS ALL HAVE ALARMS.
IF NOT FOR THIS SHOULDER INJURY, WE COULD GO IN UP TOP...CLIMBING A DRAINPIPE OR SOMETHING.
キッ
THE COMMANDER IS ALWAYS TELLING US NEVER TO GIVE UP...
ANYWAY, FIRST LET'S CHECK OUR SURROUNDINGS.
LIN!! SOMEONE'S COMING.
FUWAH
!!
SHE'S UNLOCKING THE OFFICE DOOR.

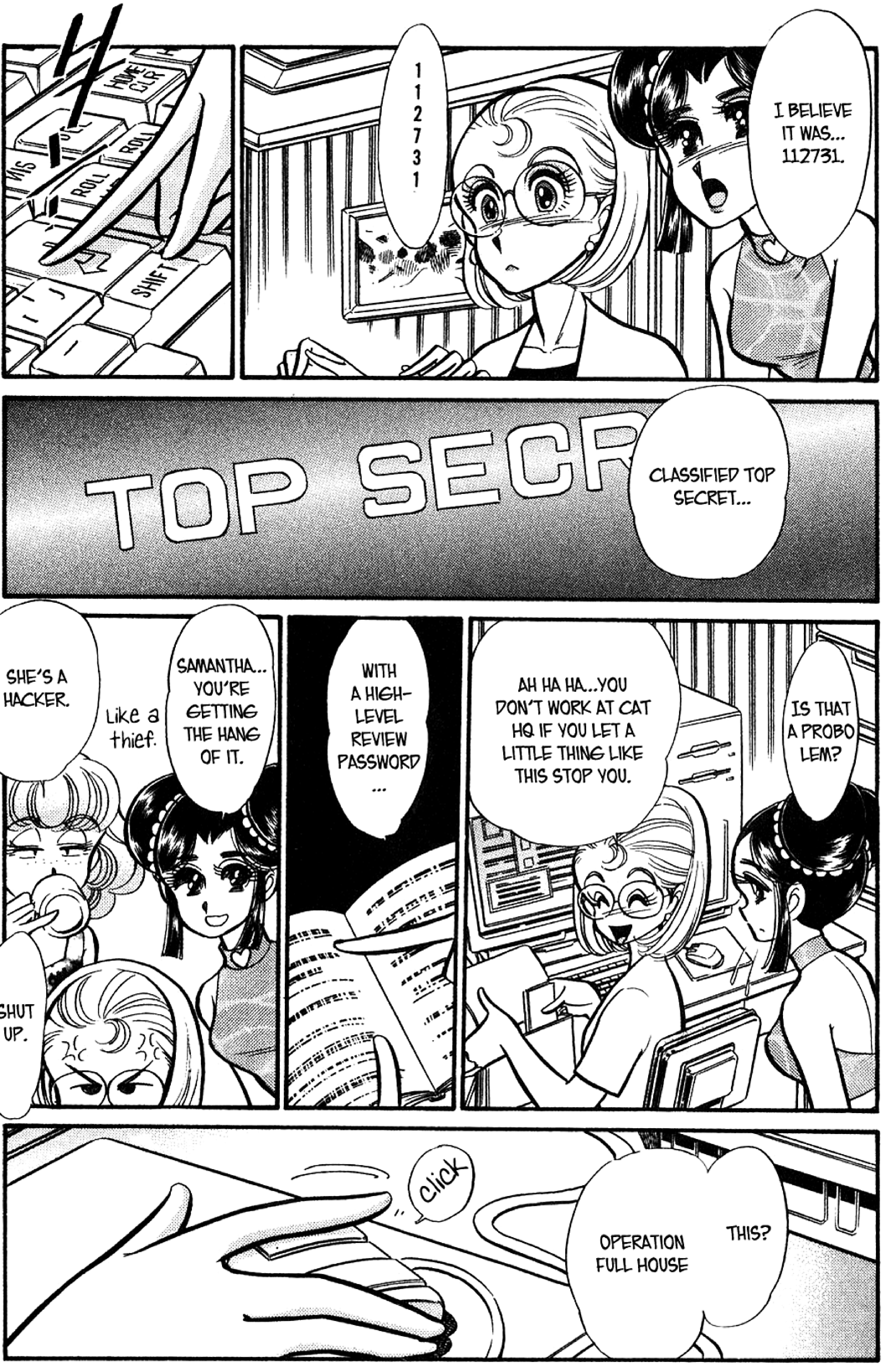

IT'S OUR CHANCE!!
(SFX) WHAM
!!
I'M SORRY!! BUT I NEED YOUR COOPERATION.
W.. WHAT'S WITH YOU!!
IRENE!!
AND LIN, TOO...
SAMAN-THA
!!
HUH?
WHY ARE YOU HERE, SAMAN-THA?

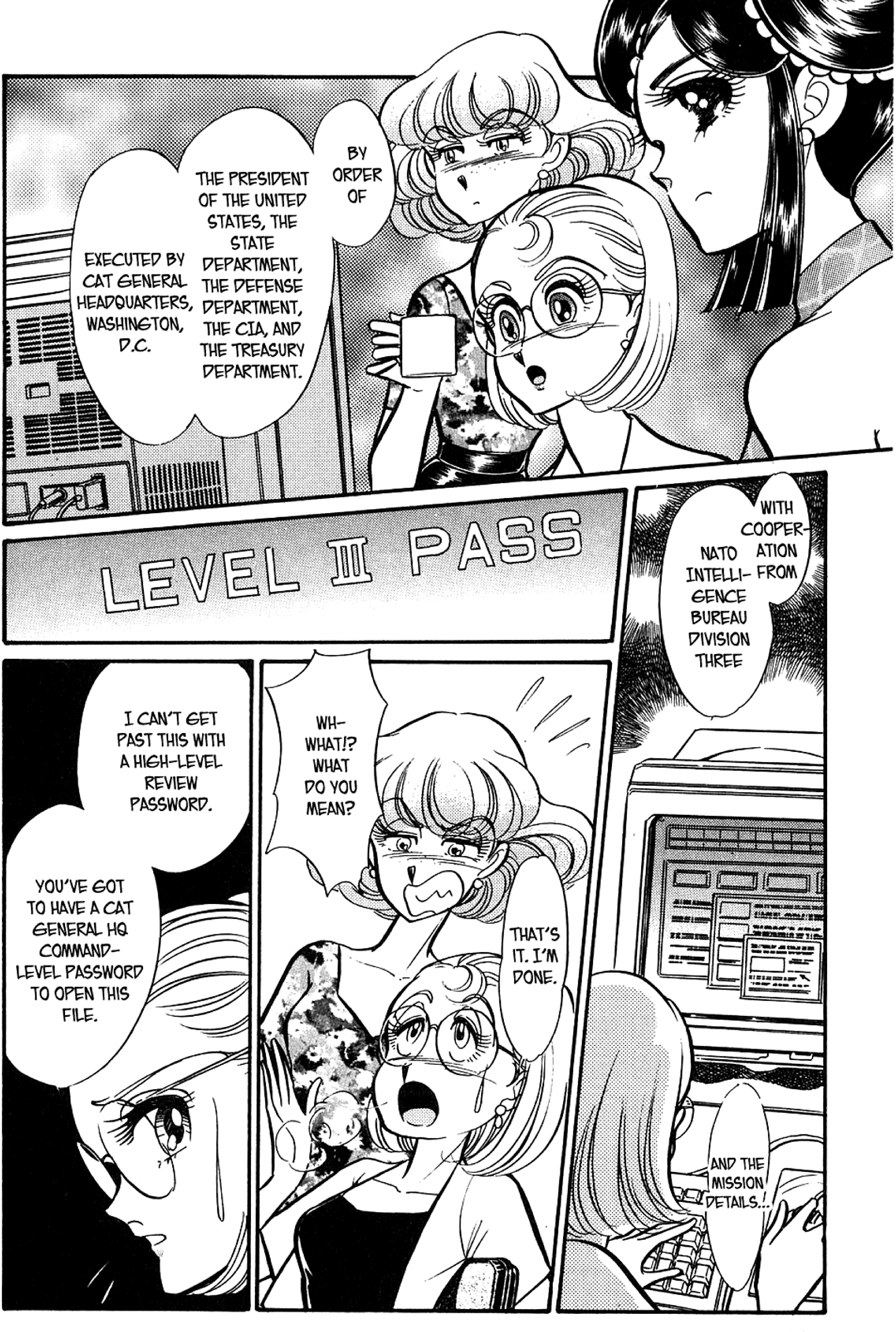

YOU LOST YOUR CREDIT CARD!!
SHIT!
SO...WHY DID YOU HAVE TO COME TO THE BRANCH OFFICE?
I ENDED UP CONTACTING THE CREDIT CARD COMPANY AND CANCELING THE CARD.
SO... WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
I HARDLY HAVE ANY CASH...
AND WITH A CANCELED CREDIT CARD...
SO...YOU WERE AIMING FOR THE SAFE IN THE BRANCH OFFICE?
NO!!
I STILL HAVE MY DRIVER'S LICENSE AND CAT ID CARD,
SO I CAME TO THE OFFICE TO USE THE INTERNET HERE. WITH MY PASSWORD I CAN GET MONEY FROM THE CASH DISPENSER.
WOAH
I HAD NO IDEA.

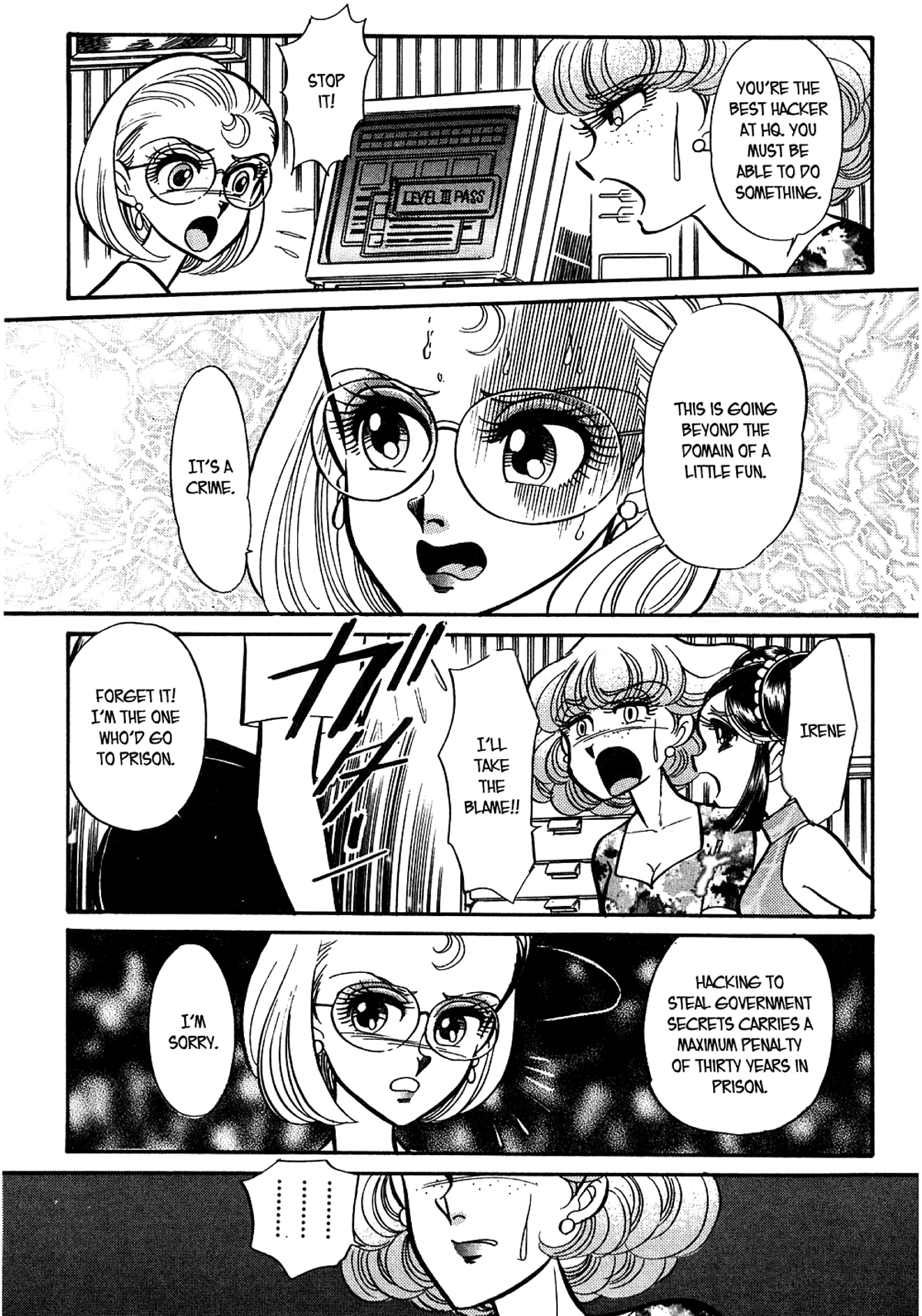

REALLY!! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE GOING TO DO THAT.
THAT'S WHY EVERYONE CALLS YOU A PEA-BRAINED MUSCLE-HEAD.
SHAD-DAP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ANYWAY?
ME?
I'M HERE ON VACATION TO GO TO A TRADE SHOW IN FRANKFURT.
AND YOU JUST HAPPENED TO COME SIGHTSEEING TO THE BRANCH OFFICE...?
YOU'RE HIDING SOME-THING.
I- I AM NOT!
...IT'S JUST...

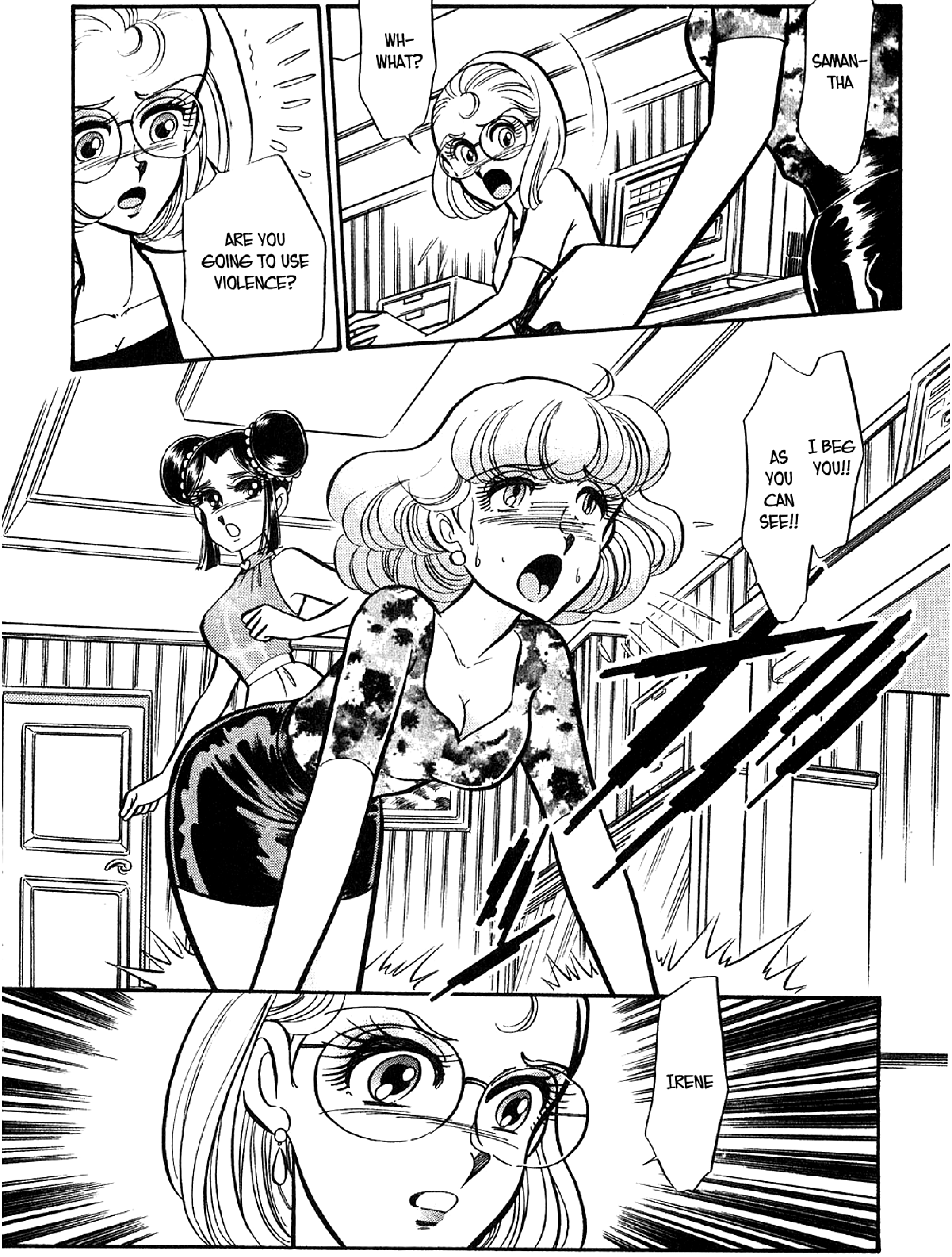

SO IF I CONTINUE MY VACATION FROM HERE, WHAT ARE YOU TWO GOING TO DO?
YOU BOTH ARE DESERTERS.
SYSTEM ELEVEN WAS INVOKED, SO WE ARE STILL ON MISSION.
SYSTEM ELEVEN?!
CAT ONLY HAS TEN FORMATIONS FOR MISSION OPERATIVES.
THERE IS NO ELEVEN.
THERE IS.
IN DIVISION M.
THAT'S RIGHT...
...IT SEEMS LIKE I OUGHT NOT TO ASK.
YOU'VE BASICALLY ALREADY ASKED.
SAY... SAMANTHA...

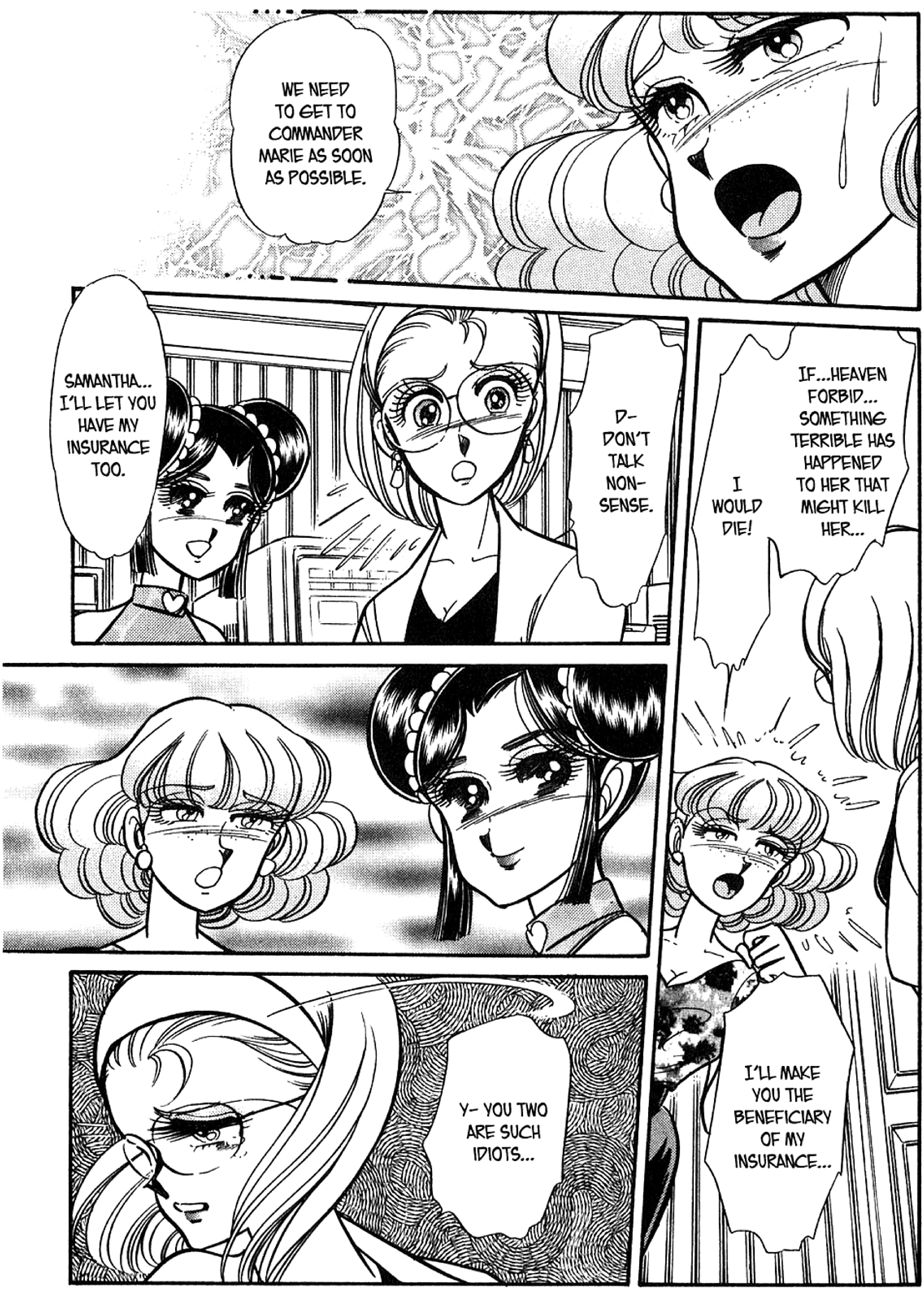

SYSTEM ELEVEN IS INVOKED WHEN, FOR WHATEVER REASON, THE COMMANDER IS UNABLE TO TAKE COMMAND...WHICH IS ACTUALLY HARDLY EVER.
HMMM
IT'S THERE IN CASE THE DIVISION GETS ALL SPLIT UP IN MELEE OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.
IF THE COMMANDER CAN'T TAKE COMMAND, THEN NORMALLY THE SECOND IN COMMAND TAKES OVER...AND IF SHE CAN'T, THEN THE MOST SENIOR AGENT DOES.
AH. THIS THING HAS A PASSWORD.
(SFX) BEEP
WHAT'S THE MISSION CODE?
THERE...

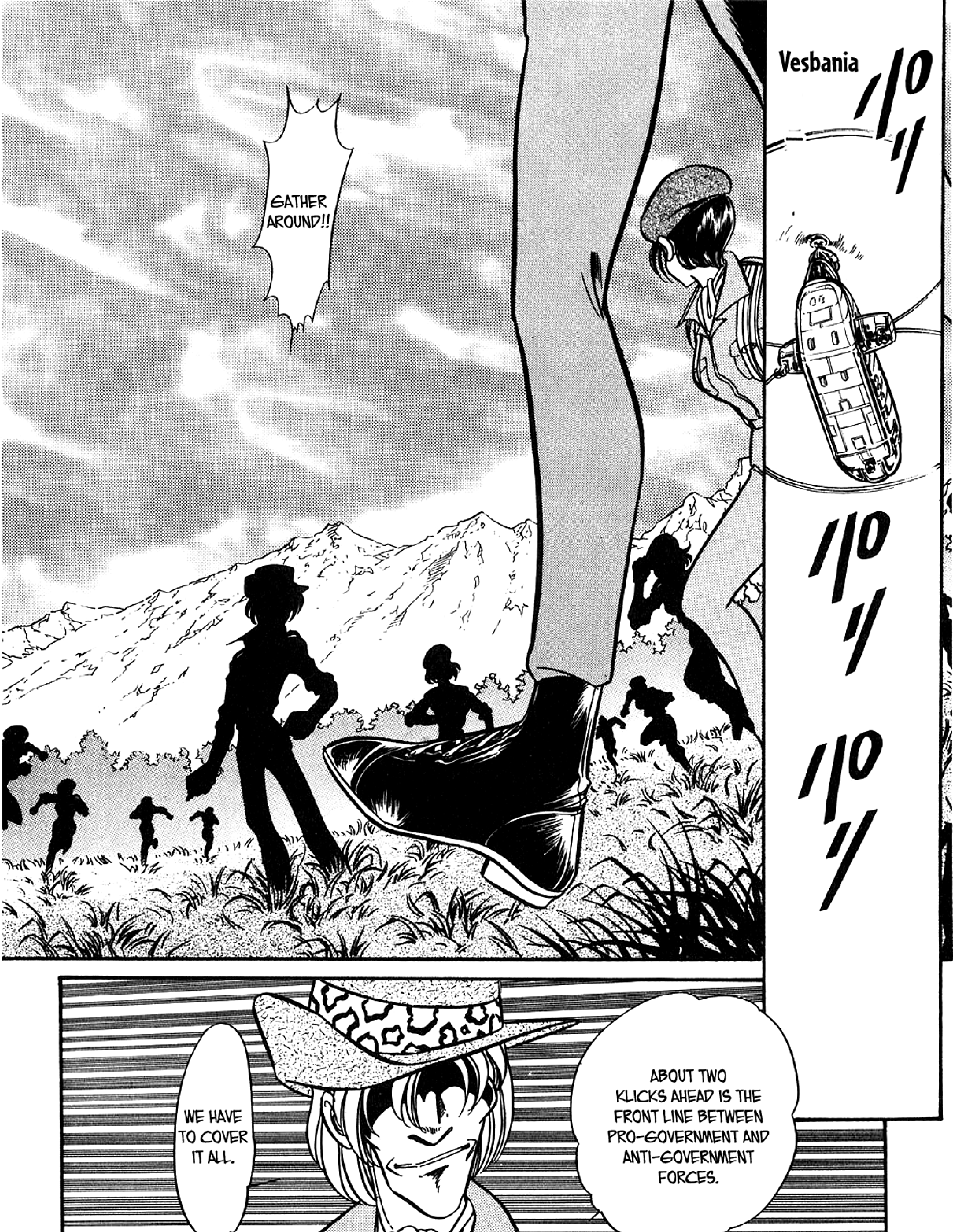

I BELIEVE IT WAS... 112731.
112731
TOP SECR
CLASSIFIED TOP SECRET...
IS THAT A PROBO LEM?
AH HA HA...YOU DON'T WORK AT CAT HQ IF YOU LET A LITTLE THING LIKE THIS STOP YOU.
WITH A HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW PASSWORD...
SAMANTHA... YOU'RE GETTING THE HANG OF IT.
Like a thief.
SHE'S A HACKER.
SHUT UP.
THIS?
OPERATION FULL HOUSE
click

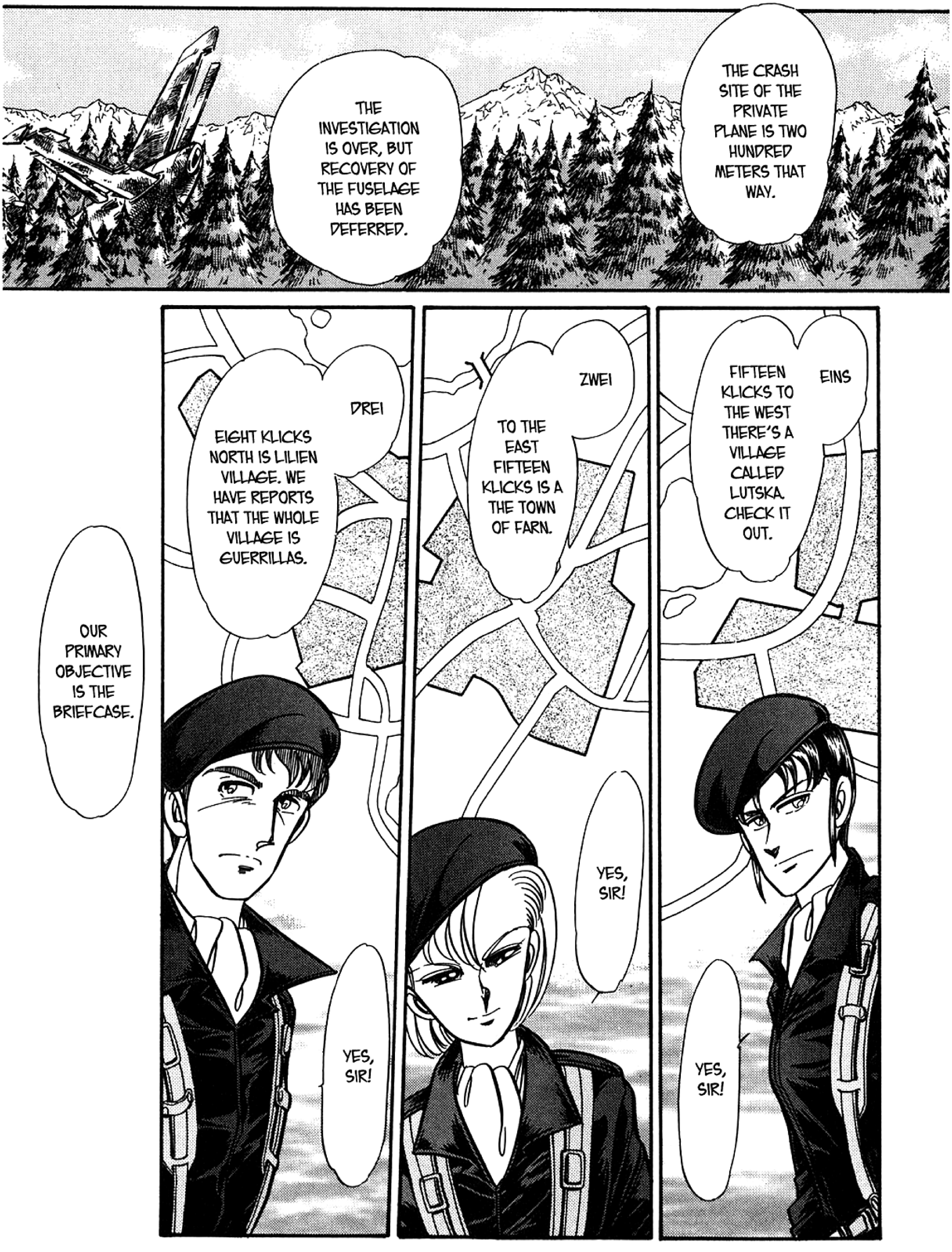

BY ORDER OF
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, THE CIA, AND THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.
EXECUTED BY CAT GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.
WITH COOPERATION FROM NATO INTELLIGENCE BUREAU DIVISION THREE
AND THE MISSION DETAILS..!
LEVEL III PASS
WH-WHAT!? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THAT'S IT. I'M DONE.
I CAN'T GET PAST THIS WITH A HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW PASSWORD.
YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE A CAT GENERAL HQ COMMAND-LEVEL PASSWORD TO OPEN THIS FILE.

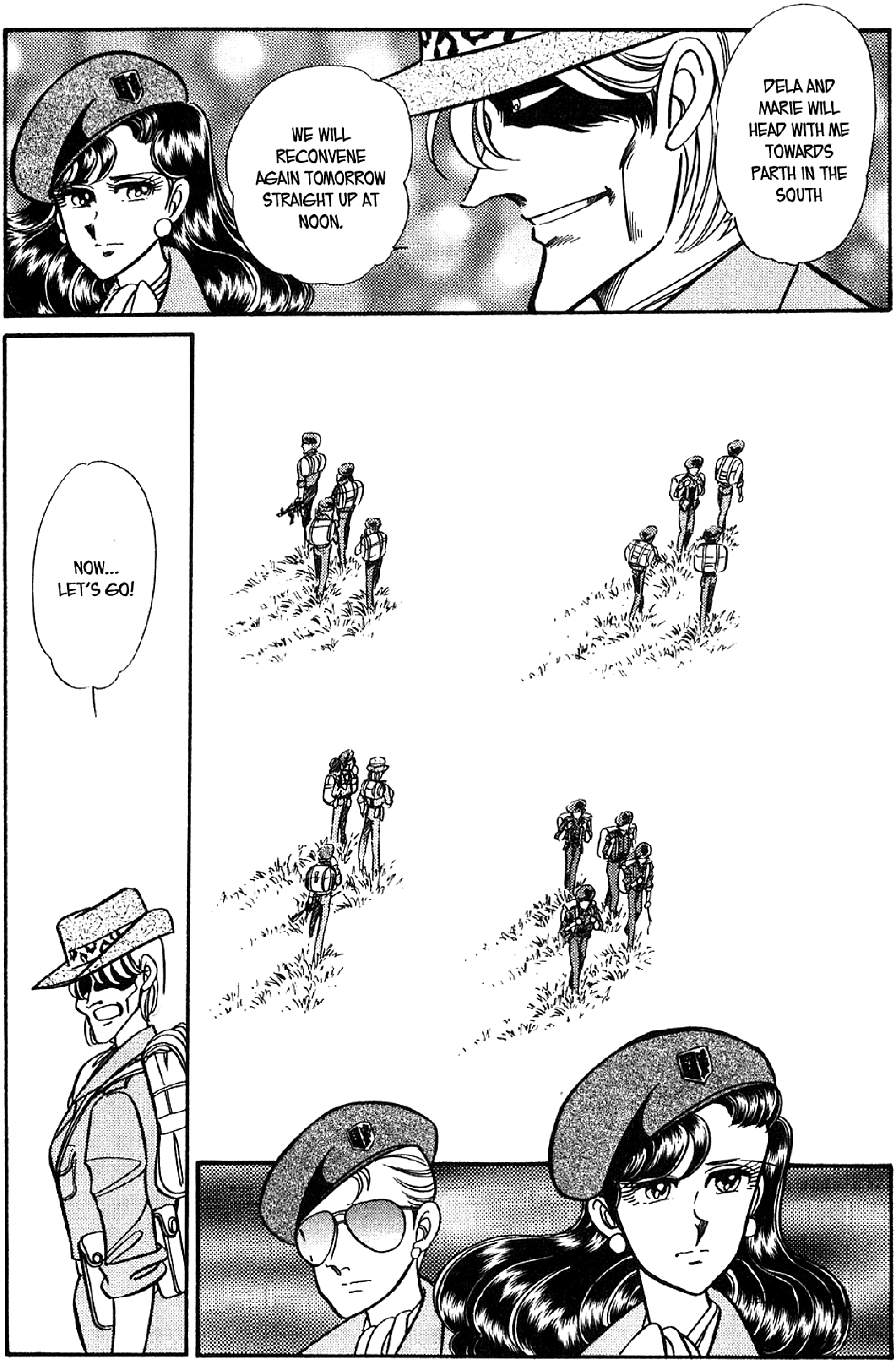

YOU'RE THE BEST HACKER AT HQ. YOU MUST BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING.
LEVEL III PASS
STOP IT!
THIS IS GOING BEYOND THE DOMAIN OF A LITTLE FUN.
IT'S A CRIME.
IRENE
I'LL TAKE THE BLAME!!
FORGET IT! I'M THE ONE WHO'D GO TO PRISON.
HACKING TO STEAL GOVERNMENT SECRETS CARRIES A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF THIRTY YEARS IN PRISON.
I'M SORRY.
......

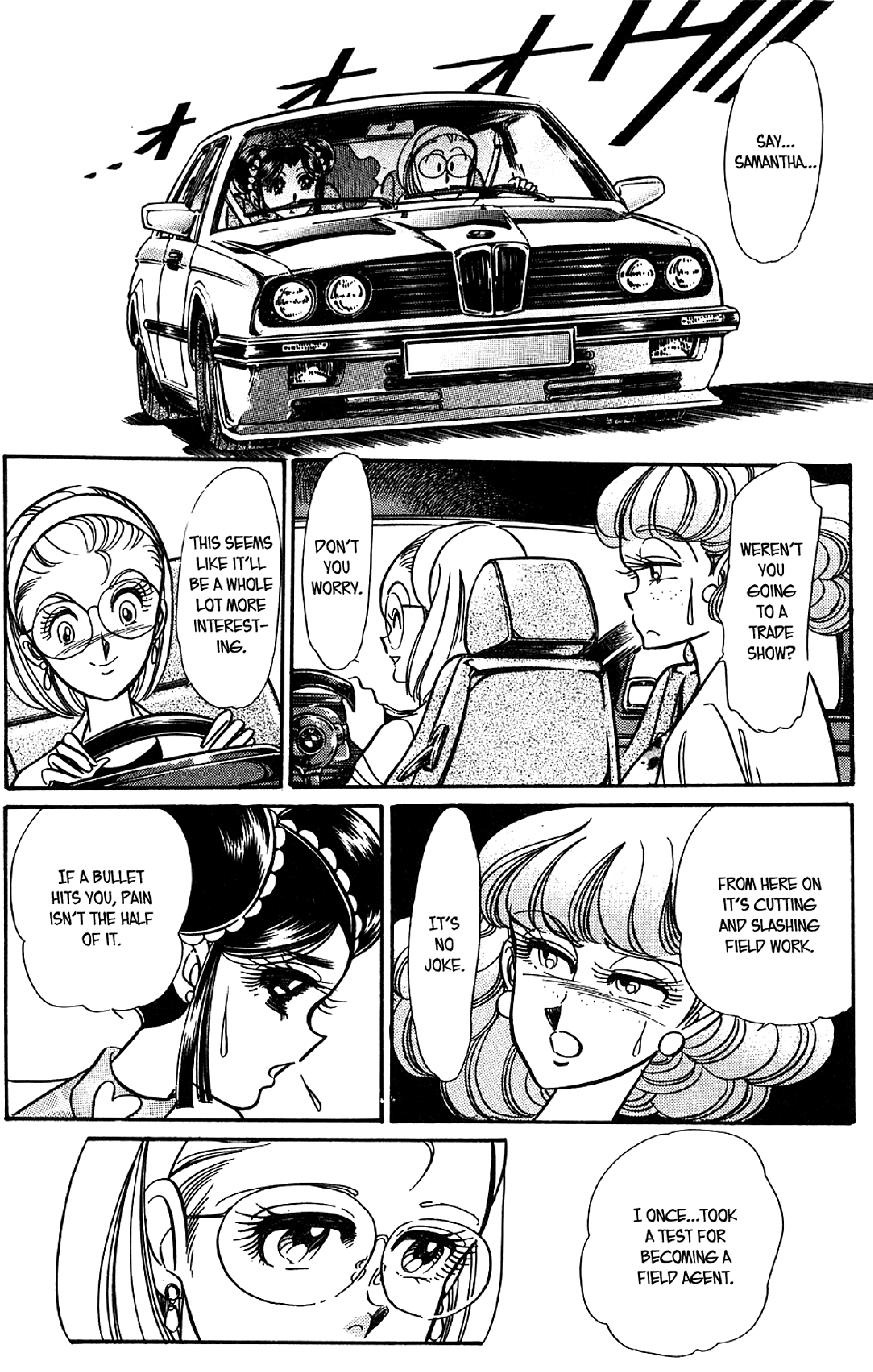

SAMAN-THA
WH-WHAT?
ARE YOU GOING TO USE VIOLENCE?
I BEG YOU!!
AS YOU CAN SEE!!
IRENE

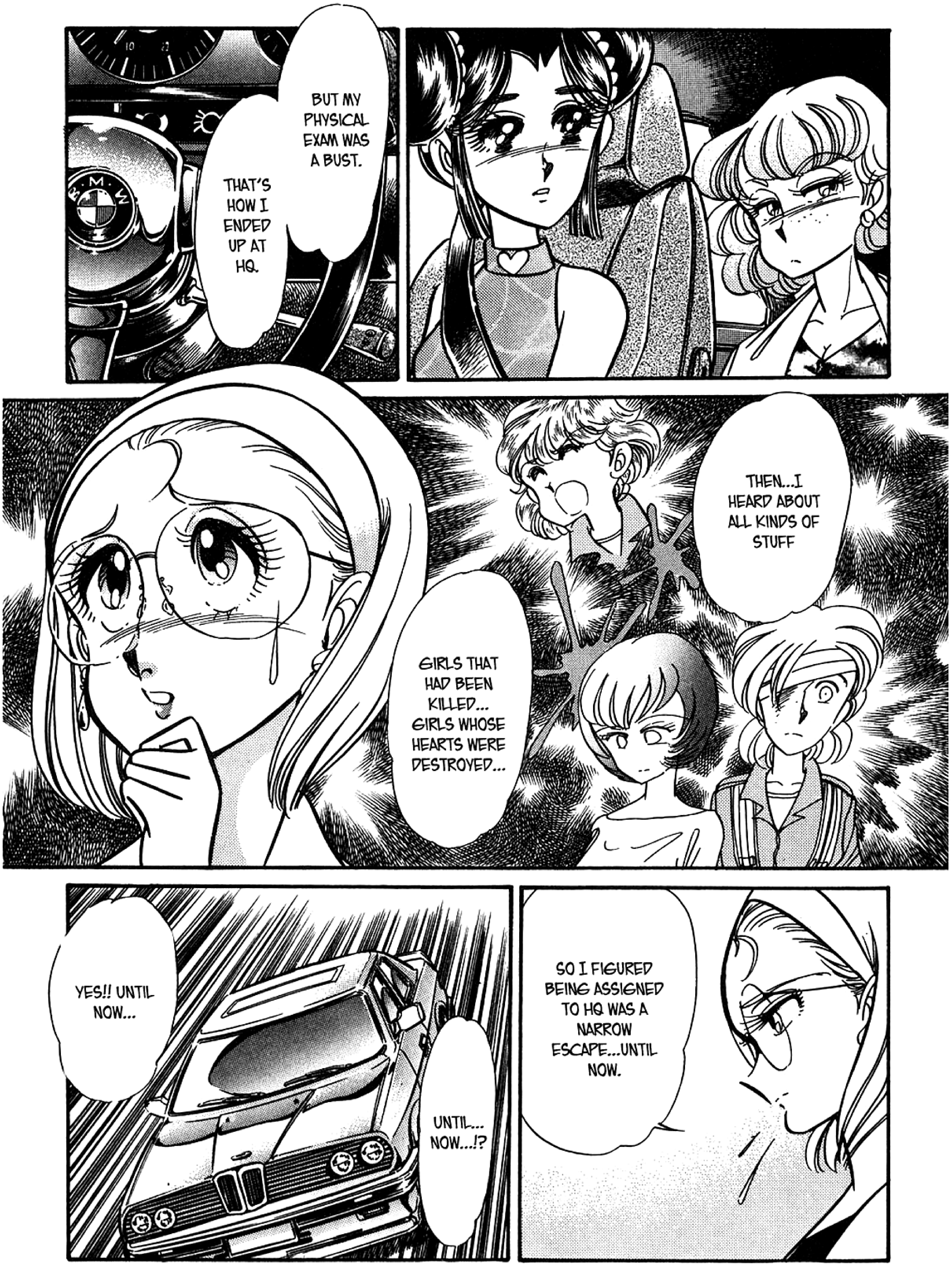

WE NEED TO GET TO COMMANDER MARIE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
IF...HEAVEN FORBID... SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED TO HER THAT MIGHT KILL HER...
I WOULD DIE!
I'LL MAKE YOU THE BENEFICIARY OF MY INSURANCE...
D- DON'T TALK NONSENSE.
SAMANTHA... I'LL LET YOU HAVE MY INSURANCE TOO.
Y- YOU TWO ARE SUCH IDIOTS...

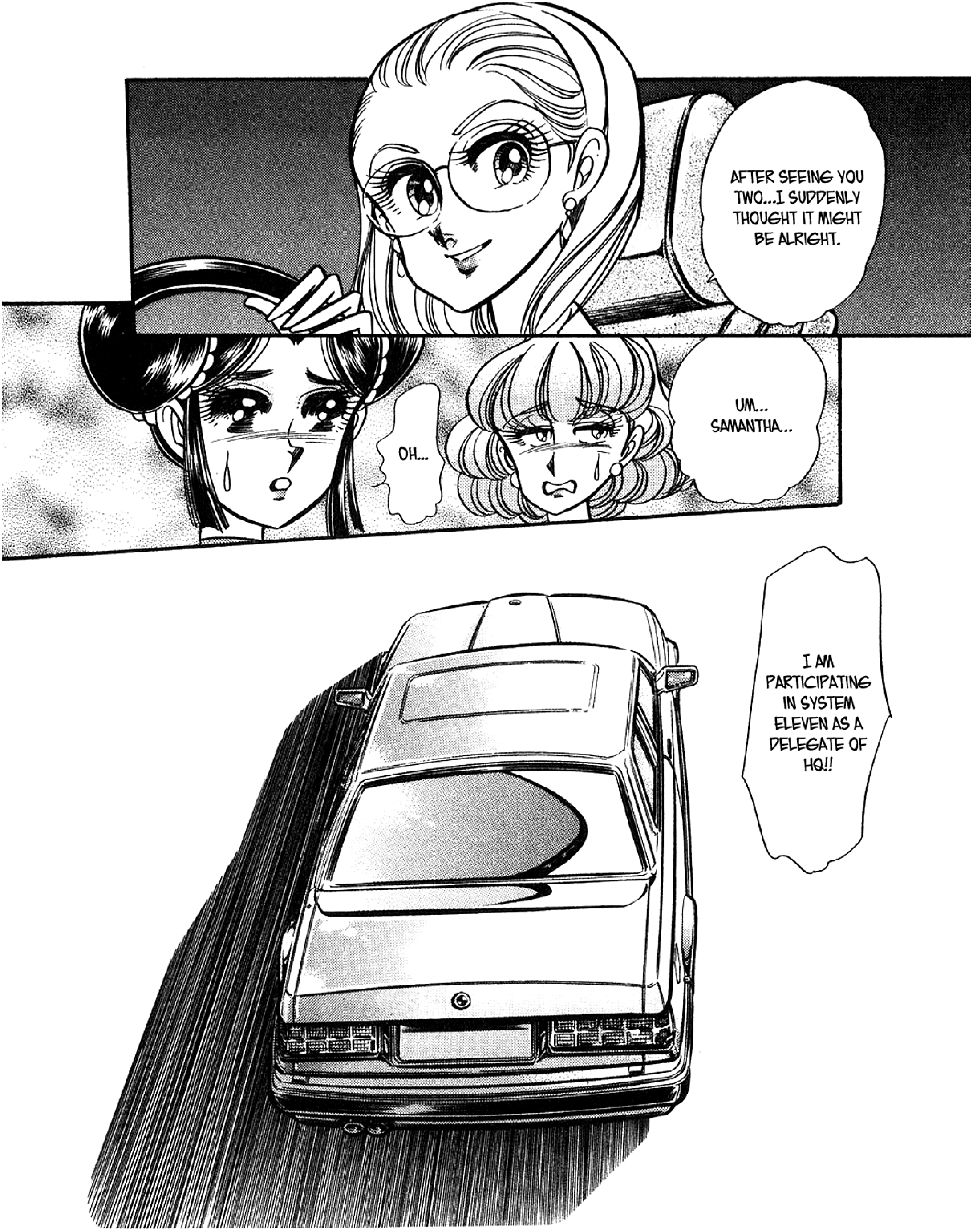

Vesbania
パリ
パッ
パッ
GATHER AROUND!!
ABOUT TWO KLICKS AHEAD IS THE FRONT LINE BETWEEN PRO-GOVERNMENT AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES.
WE HAVE TO COVER IT ALL.


THE CRASH SITE OF THE PRIVATE PLANE IS TWO HUNDRED METERS THAT WAY.
THE INVESTIGATION IS OVER, BUT RECOVERY OF THE FUSELAGE HAS BEEN DEFERRED.
EINS
FIFTEEN KLICKS TO THE WEST THERE'S A VILLAGE CALLED LUTSKA. CHECK IT OUT.
YES, SIR!
ZWEI
TO THE EAST FIFTEEN KLICKS IS A THE TOWN OF FARN.
YES, SIR!
DREI
EIGHT KLICKS NORTH IS LILIEN VILLAGE. WE HAVE REPORTS THAT THE WHOLE VILLAGE IS GUERRILLAS.
YES, SIR!
OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS THE BRIEFCASE.


DELA AND MARIE WILL HEAD WITH ME TOWARDS PARTH IN THE SOUTH
WE WILL RECONVENE AGAIN TOMORROW STRAIGHT UP AT NOON.
NOW... LET'S GO!


‥オオオオドゥ
SAY... SAMANTHA...
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO A TRADE SHOW?
DON'T YOU WORRY.
THIS SEEMS LIKE IT'LL BE A WHOLE LOT MORE INTERESTING.
FROM HERE ON IT'S CUTTING AND SLASHING FIELD WORK.
IT'S NO JOKE.
IF A BULLET HITS YOU, PAIN ISN'T THE HALF OF IT.
I ONCE...TOOK A TEST FOR BECOMING A FIELD AGENT.


BUT MY PHYSICAL EXAM WAS A BUST.
THAT'S HOW I ENDED UP AT HQ.
THEN...I HEARD ABOUT ALL KINDS OF STUFF
GIRLS THAT HAD BEEN KILLED... GIRLS WHOSE HEARTS WERE DESTROYED...
SO I FIGURED BEING ASSIGNED TO HQ WAS A NARROW ESCAPE...UNTIL NOW.
UNTIL... NOW...!?
YES!! UNTIL NOW...

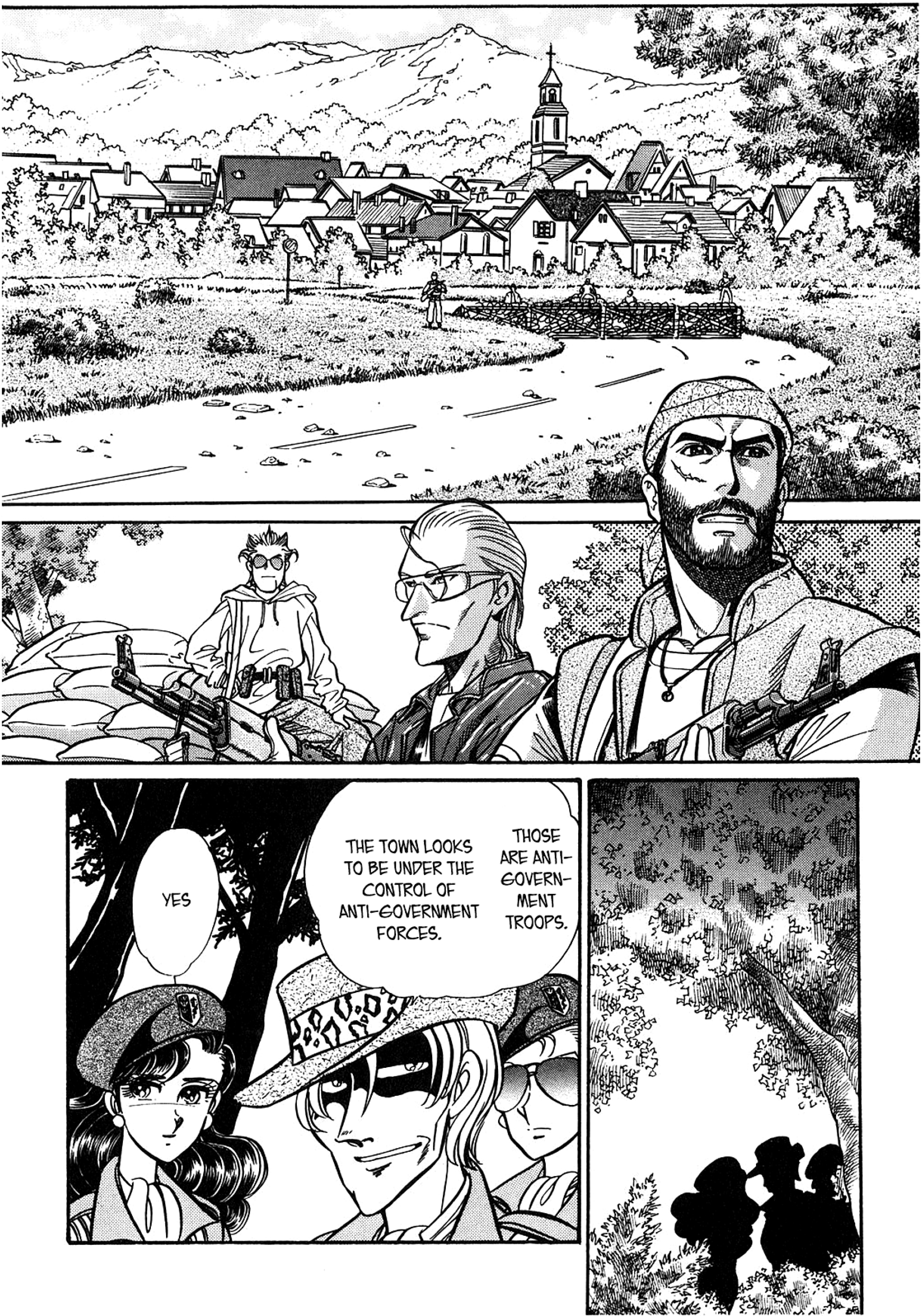

AFTER SEEING YOU TWO...I SUDDENLY THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE ALRIGHT.
UM.. SAMANTHA..
OH...
I AM PARTICIPATING IN SYSTEM ELEVEN AS A DELEGATE OF HQ!!

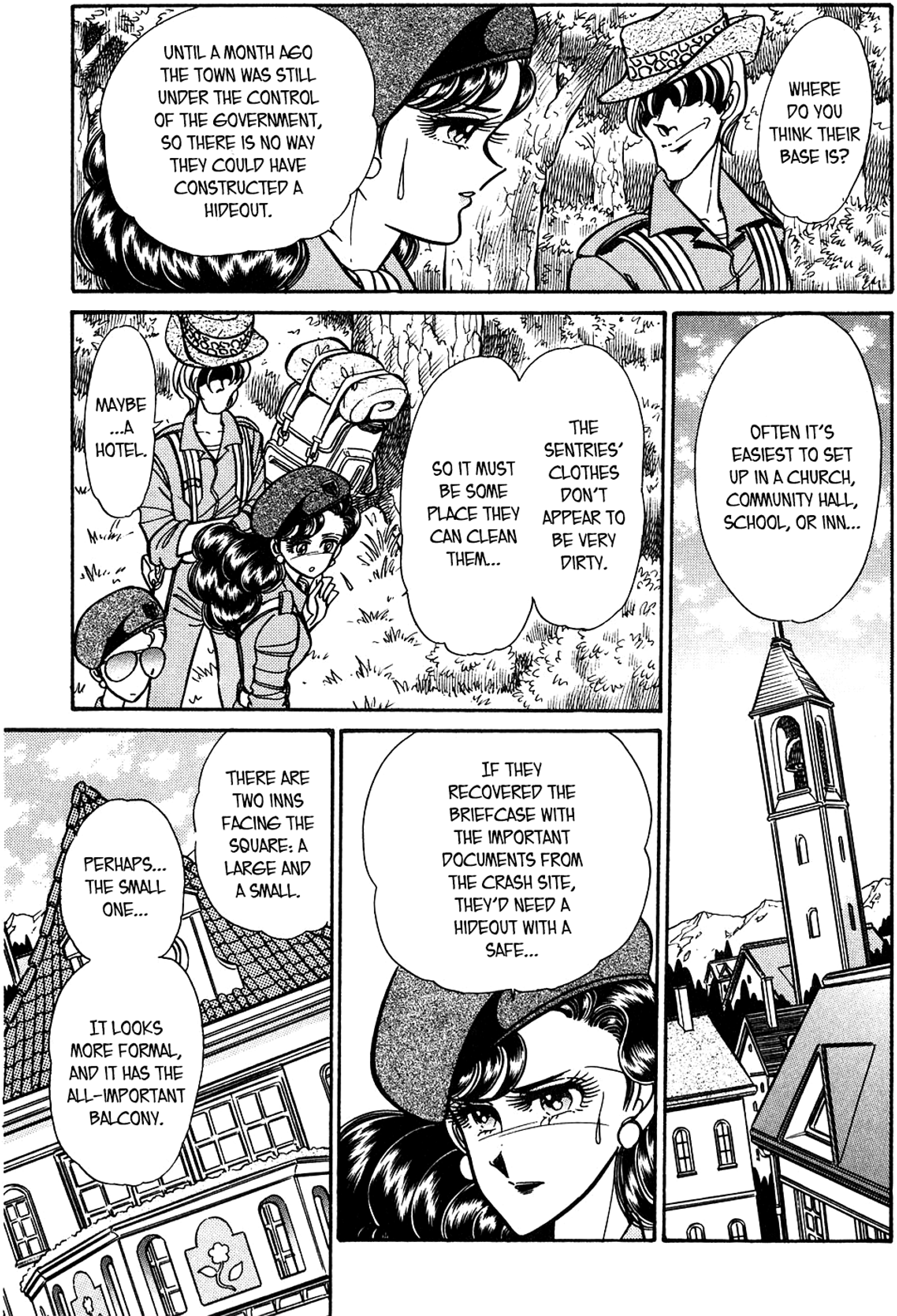
[File25：ダブル・スペード（5） おわり]

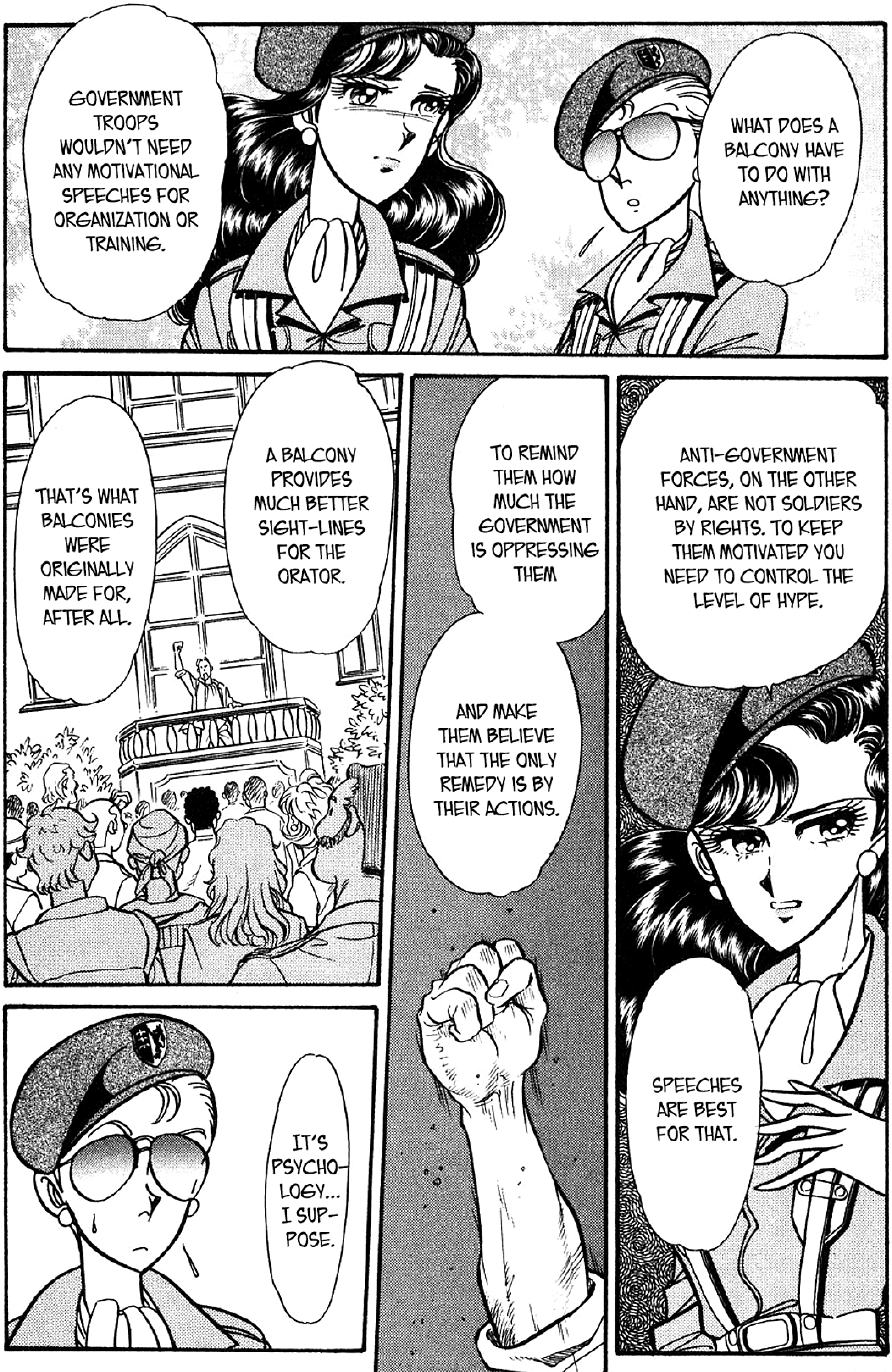
砂の薔薇

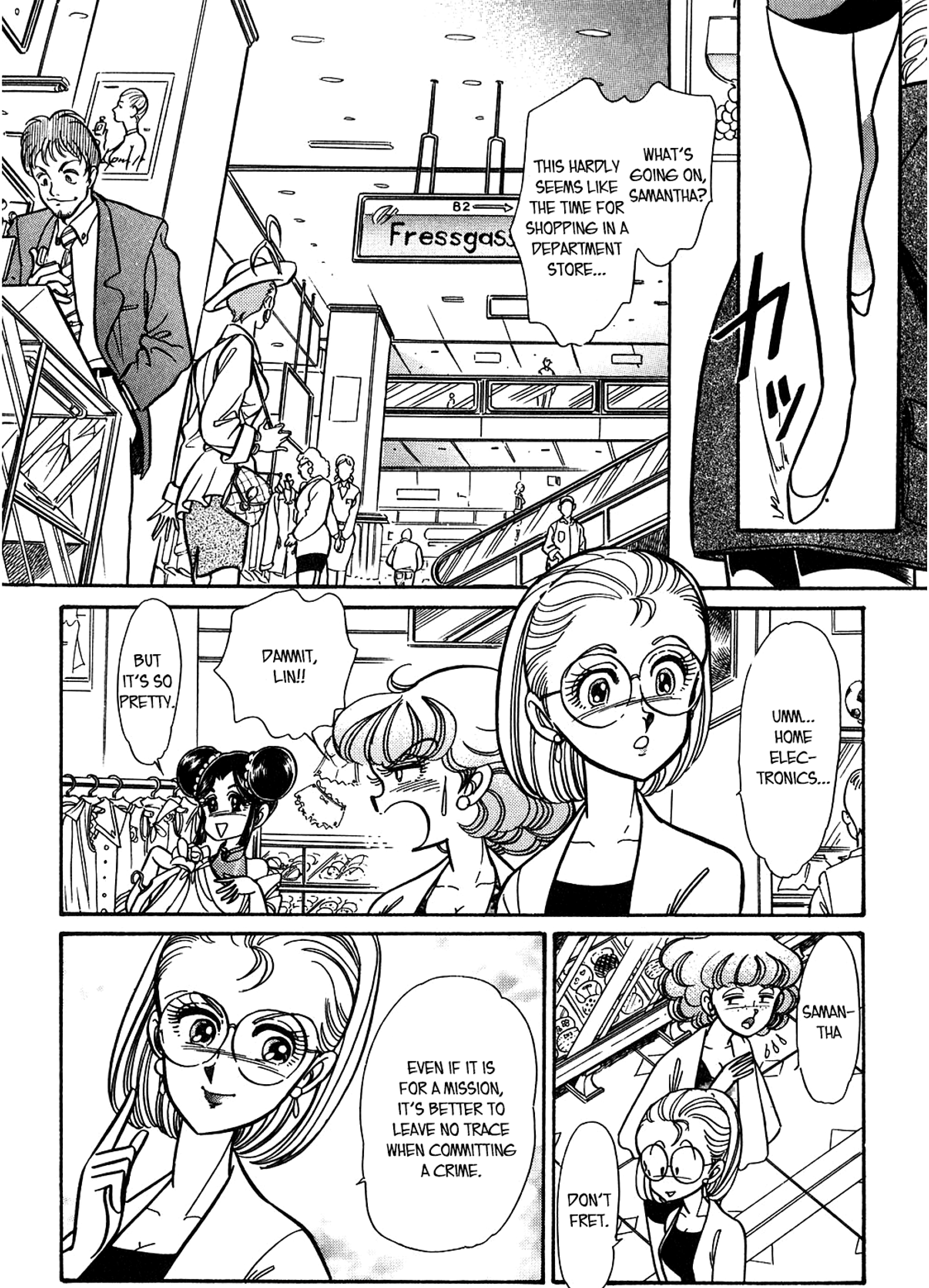
デザート・ローズ

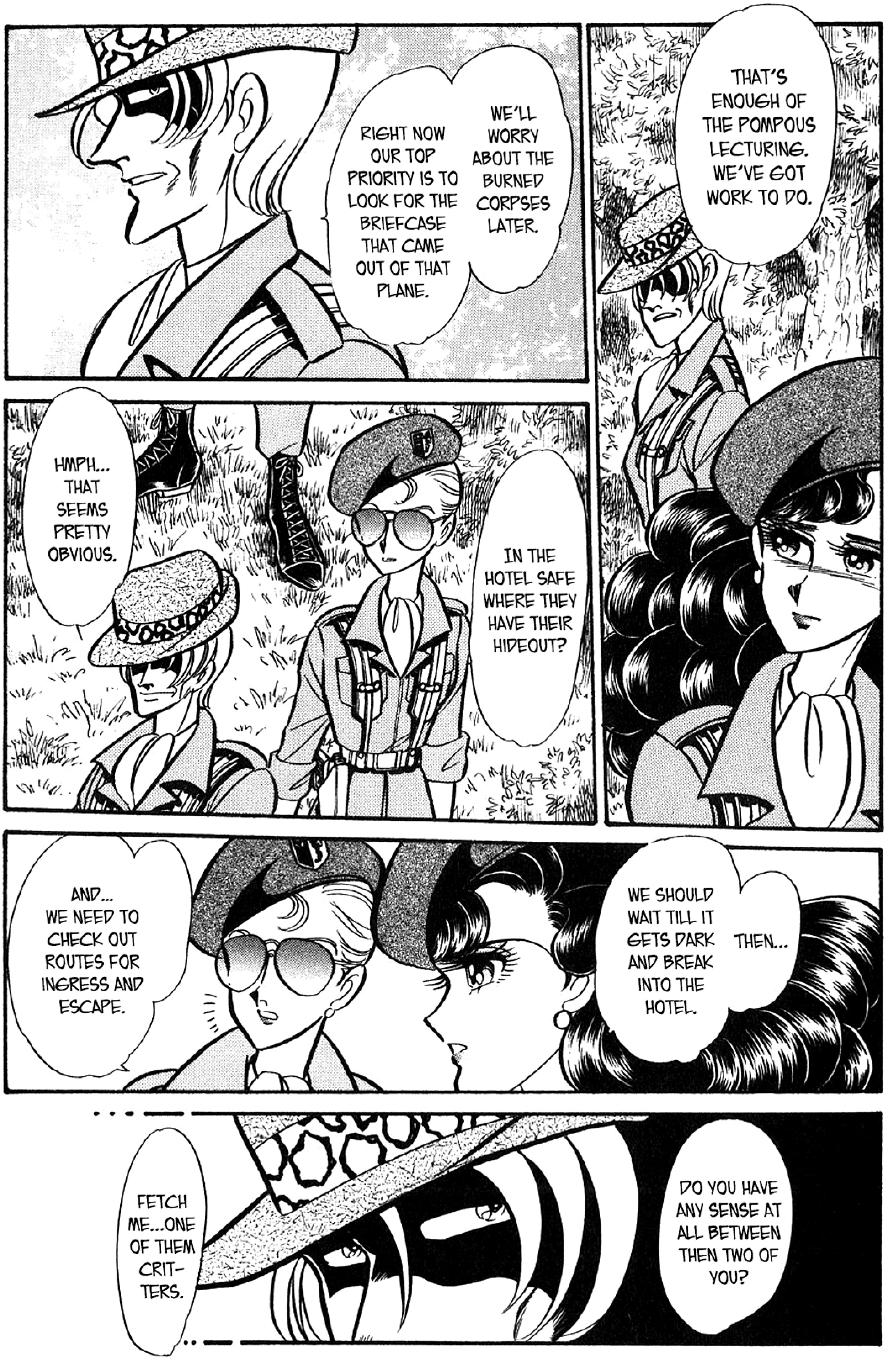
File 25: Double Spade (6)

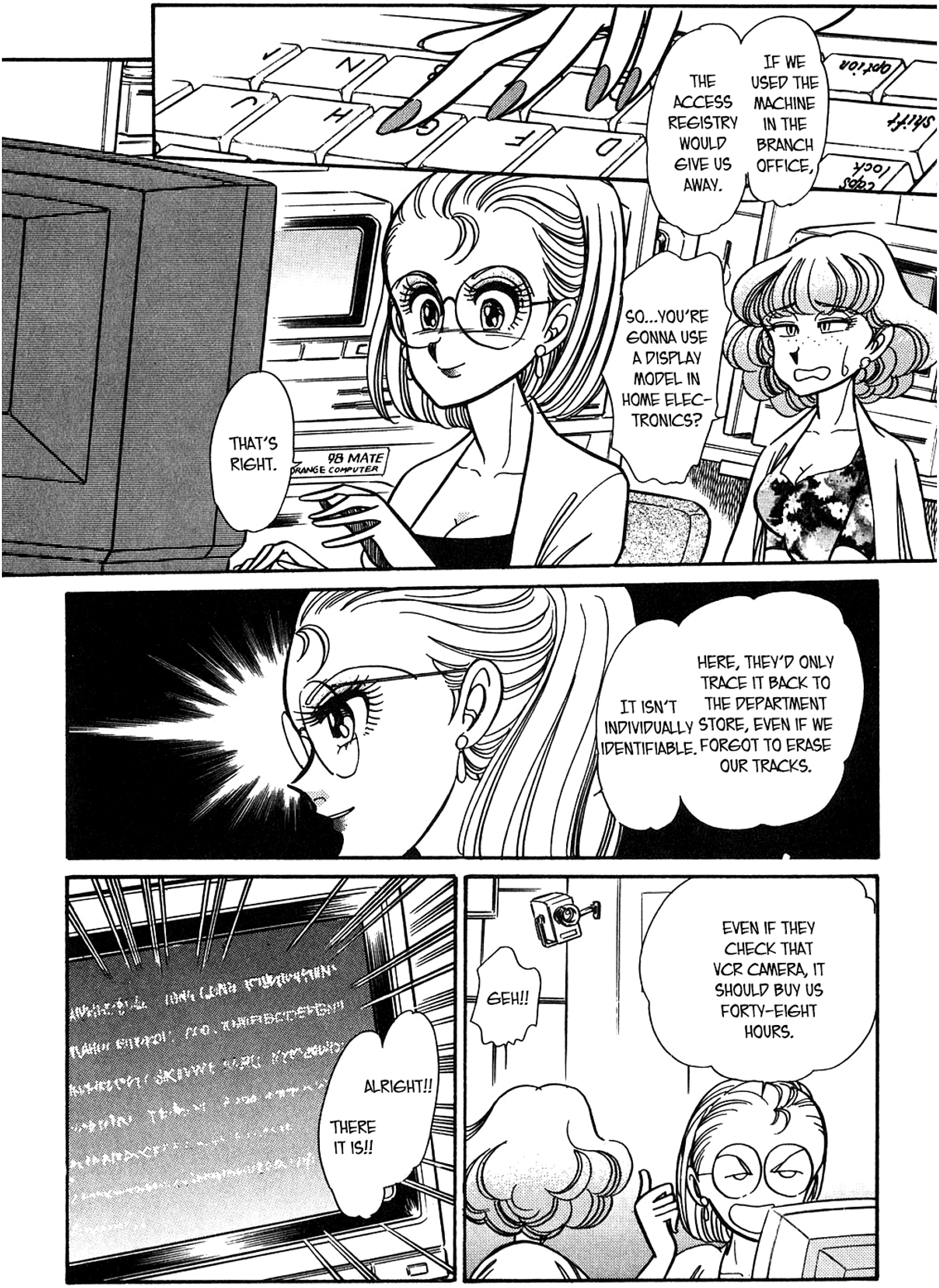

THOSE ARE ANTI-GOVERNMENT TROOPS.
THE TOWN LOOKS TO BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES.
YES

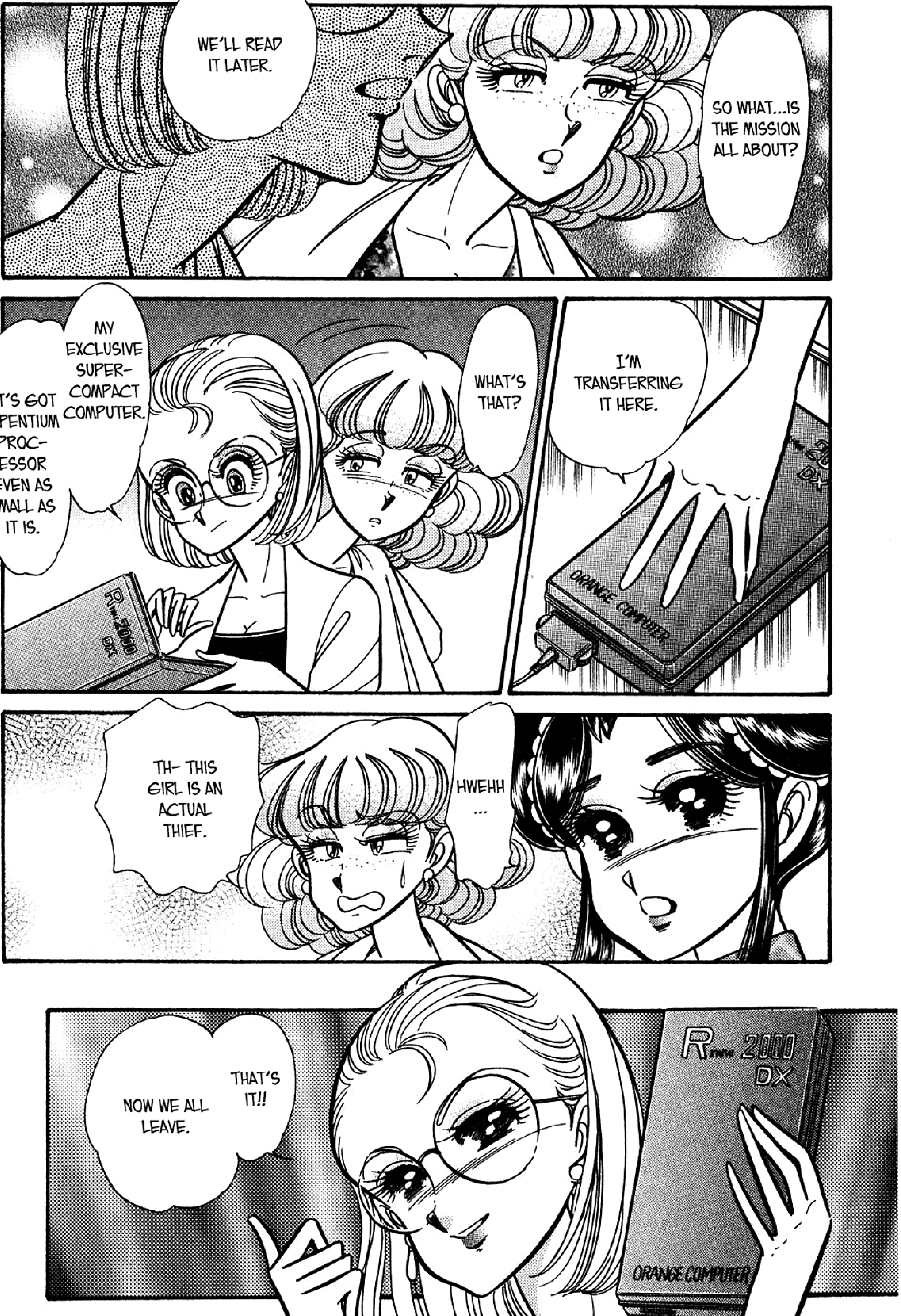

WHERE DO YOU THINK THEIR BASE IS?
UNTIL A MONTH AGO THE TOWN WAS STILL UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT, SO THERE IS NO WAY THEY COULD HAVE CONSTRUCTED A HIDEOUT.
OFTEN IT'S EASIEST TO SET UP IN A CHURCH, COMMUNITY HALL, SCHOOL, OR INN...
THE SENTRIES' CLOTHES DON'T APPEAR TO BE VERY DIRTY.
SO IT MUST BE SOME PLACE THEY CAN CLEAN THEM...
MAYBE ...A HOTEL.
IF THEY RECOVERED THE BRIEFCASE WITH THE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS FROM THE CRASH SITE, THEY'D NEED A HIDEOUT WITH A SAFE...
THERE ARE TWO INNS FACING THE SQUARE: A LARGE AND A SMALL.
PERHAPS... THE SMALL ONE...
IT LOOKS MORE FORMAL, AND IT HAS THE ALL-IMPORTANT BALCONY.

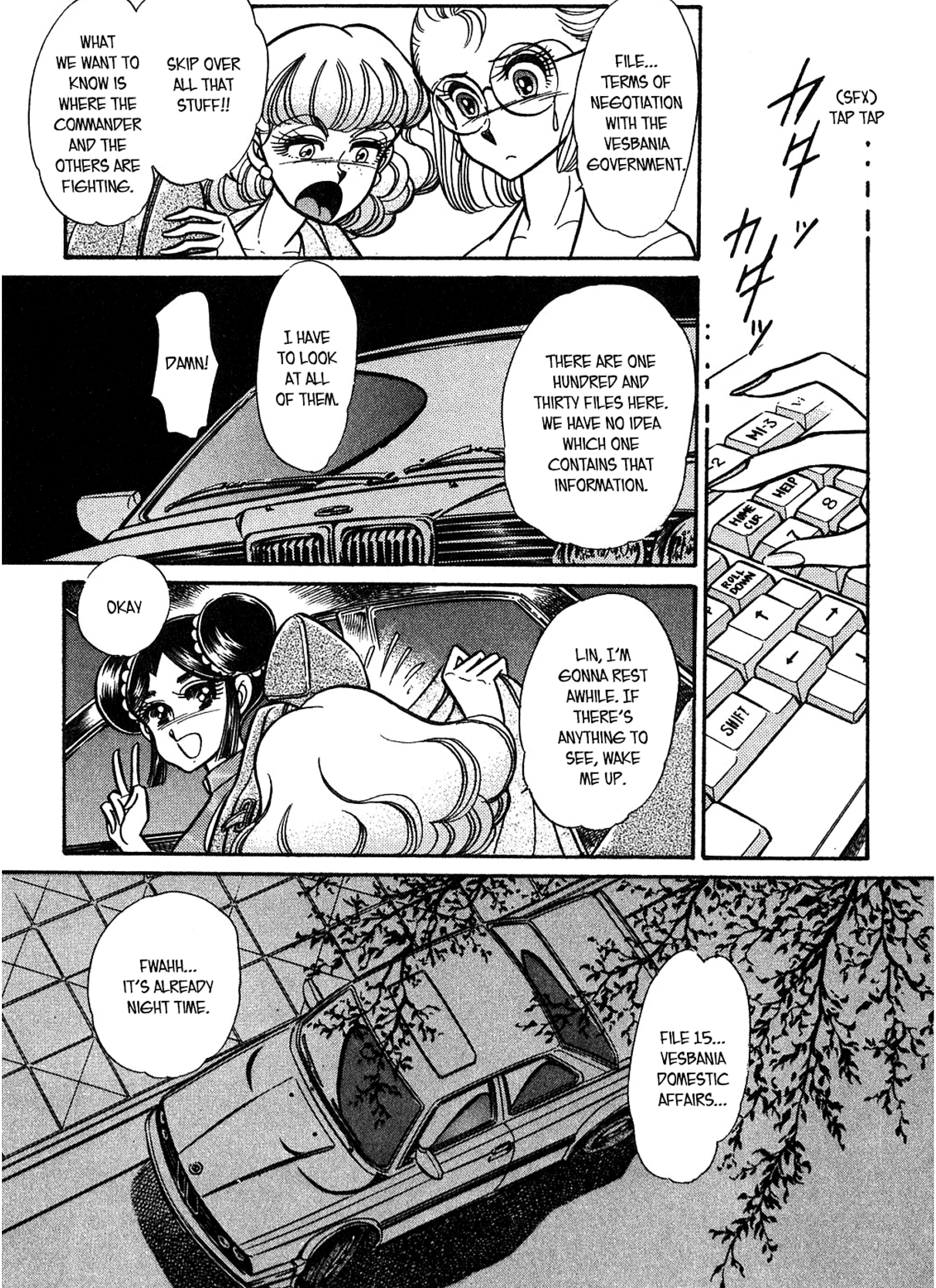

WHAT DOES A BALCONY HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?
GOVERNMENT TROOPS WOULDN'T NEED ANY MOTIVATIONAL SPEECHES FOR ORGANIZATION OR TRAINING.
ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE NOT SOLDIERS BY RIGHTS. TO KEEP THEM MOTIVATED YOU NEED TO CONTROL THE LEVEL OF HYPE.
SPEECHES ARE BEST FOR THAT.
TO REMIND THEM HOW MUCH THE GOVERNMENT IS OPPRESSING THEM
AND MAKE THEM BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY REMEDY IS BY THEIR ACTIONS.
A BALCONY PROVIDES MUCH BETTER SIGHT-LINES FOR THE ORATOR.
THAT'S WHAT BALCONIES WERE ORIGINALLY MADE FOR, AFTER ALL.
IT'S PSYCHOLOGY... I SUPPOSE.

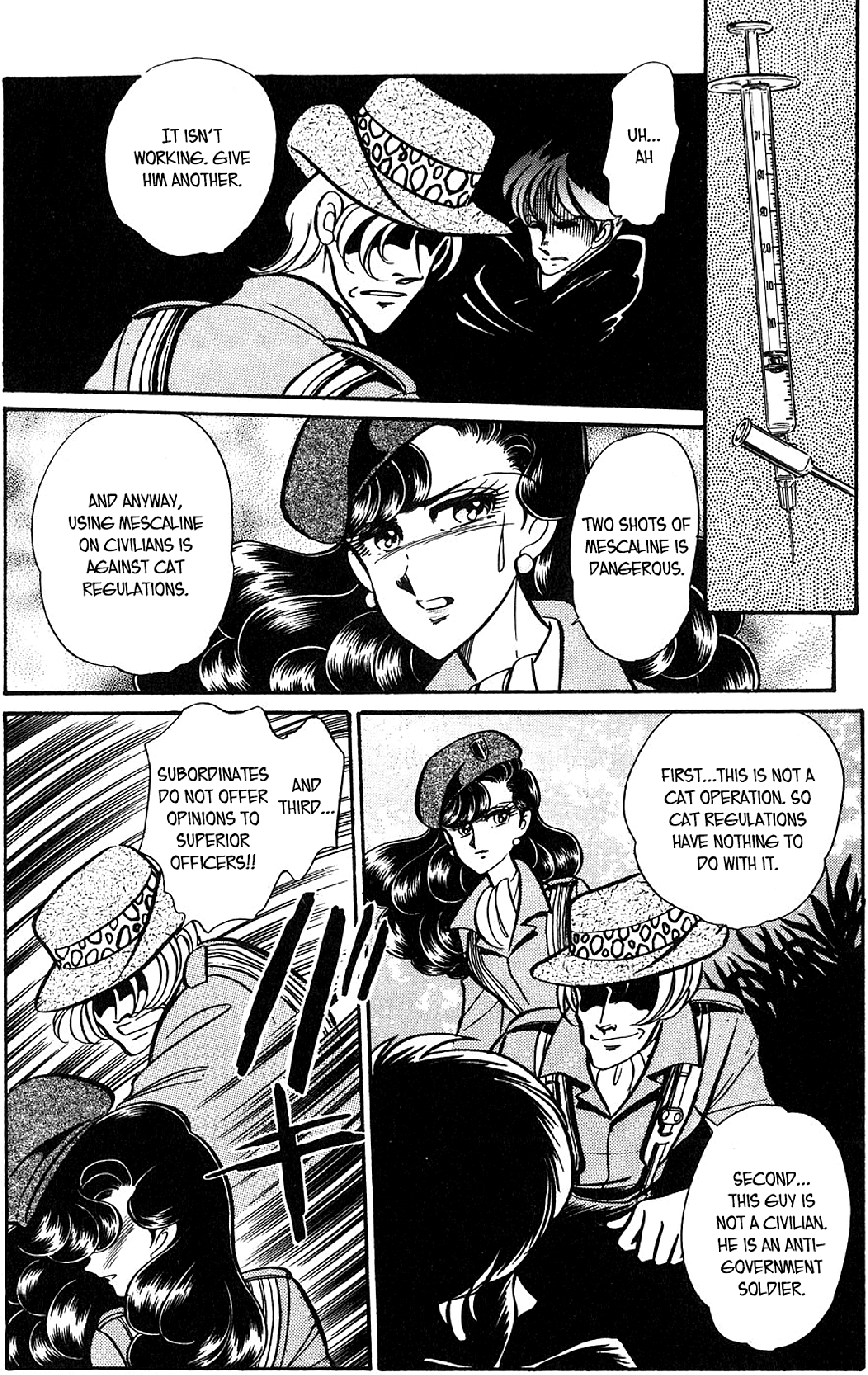

B2 →
Fressgass
カッ
WHAT'S GOING ON, SAMANTHA?
THIS HARDLY SEEMS LIKE THE TIME FOR SHOPPING IN A DEPARTMENT STORE...
UMM... HOME ELECTRONICS...
DAMMIT, LIN!!
BUT IT'S SO PRETTY.
SAMANTHA
DON'T FRET.
EVEN IF IT IS FOR A MISSION, IT'S BETTER TO LEAVE NO TRACE WHEN COMMITTING A CRIME.


THAT'S ENOUGH OF THE POMPOUS LECTURING. WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO.
WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THE BURNED CORPSES LATER.
RIGHT NOW OUR TOP PRIORITY IS TO LOOK FOR THE BRIEFCASE THAT CAME OUT OF THAT PLANE.
IN THE HOTEL SAFE WHERE THEY HAVE THEIR HIDEOUT?
HMPH... THAT SEEMS PRETTY OBVIOUS.
THEN...
WE SHOULD WAIT TILL IT GETS DARK AND BREAK INTO THE HOTEL.
AND... WE NEED TO CHECK OUT ROUTES FOR INGRESS AND ESCAPE.
DO YOU HAVE ANY SENSE AT ALL BETWEEN THEN TWO OF YOU?
FETCH ME...ONE OF THEM CRITTERS.

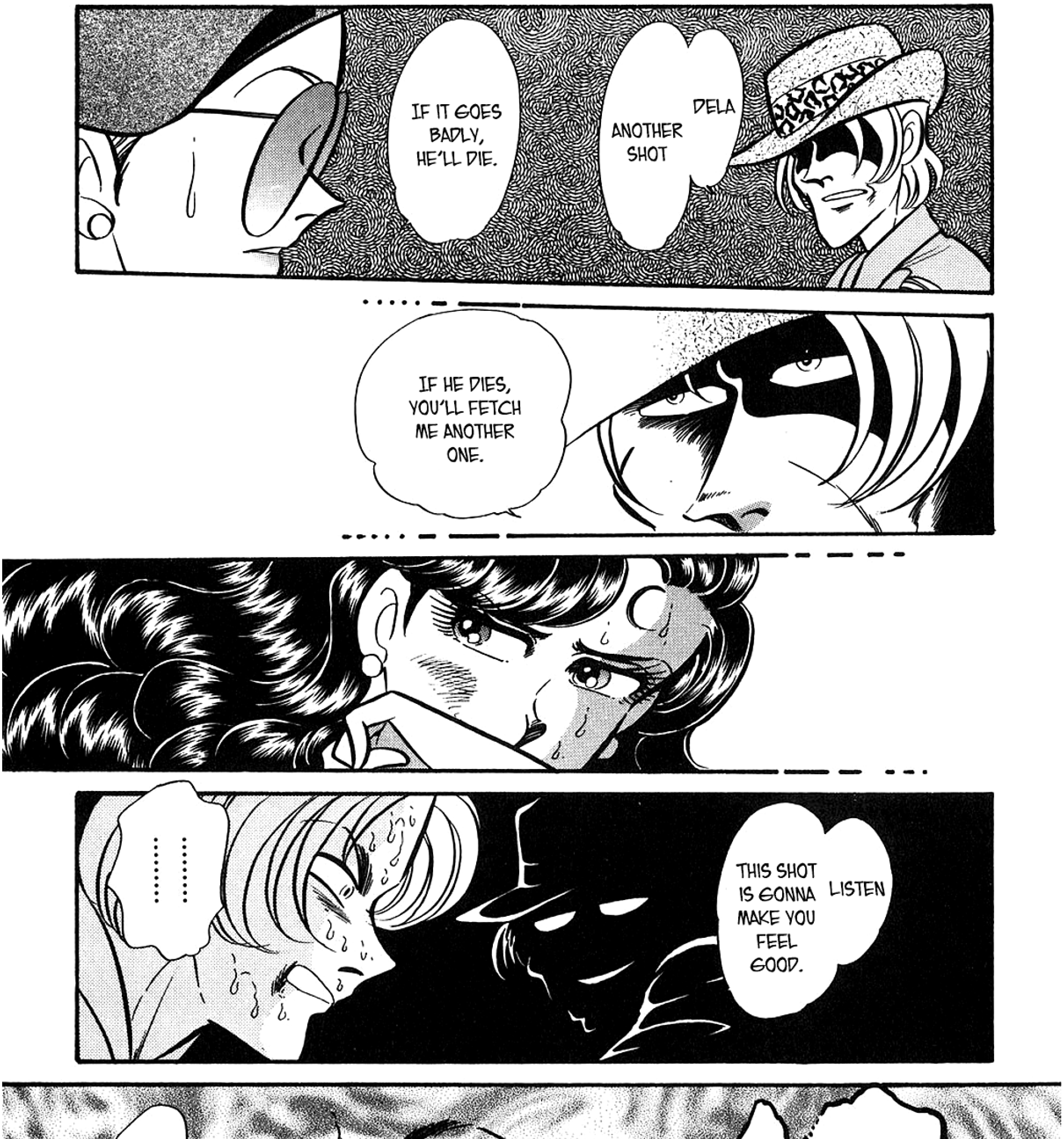

IF WE USED THE MACHINE IN THE BRANCH OFFICE,
THE ACCESS REGISTRY WOULD GIVE US AWAY.
SO...YOU'RE GONNA USE A DISPLAY MODEL IN HOME ELECTRONICS?
THAT'S RIGHT.
98 MATE ORANGE COMPUTER
HERE, THEY'D ONLY TRACE IT BACK TO THE DEPARTMENT STORE, EVEN IF WE FORGOT TO ERASE OUR TRACKS.
IT ISN'T INDIVIDUALLY IDENTIFIABLE.
EVEN IF THEY CHECK THAT VCR CAMERA, IT SHOULD BUY US FORTY-EIGHT HOURS.
GEH!!
ALRIGHT!!
THERE IT IS!!

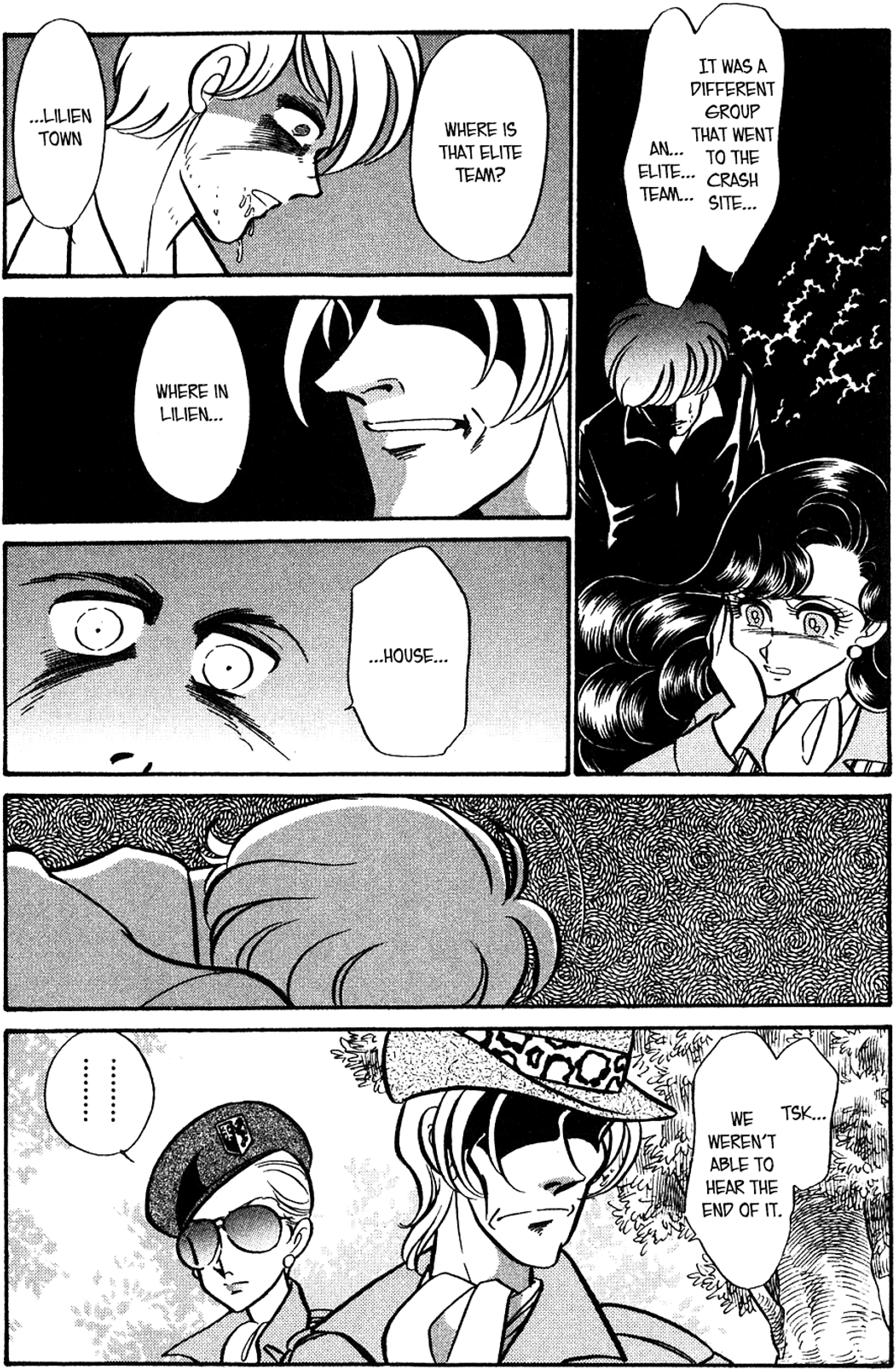

SO WHAT...IS THE MISSION ALL ABOUT?
WE'LL READ IT LATER.
I'M TRANSFERRING IT HERE.
2000 DX
ORANGE COMPUTER
WHAT'S THAT?
MY EXCLUSIVE SUPER-COMPACT COMPUTER.
IT'S GOT A PENTIUM PROCESSOR EVEN AS SMALL AS IT IS.
R 2000 DX
HWEHH...
TH- THIS GIRL IS AN ACTUAL THIEF.
R 2000 DX
ORANGE COMPUTER
THAT'S IT!!
NOW WE ALL LEAVE.

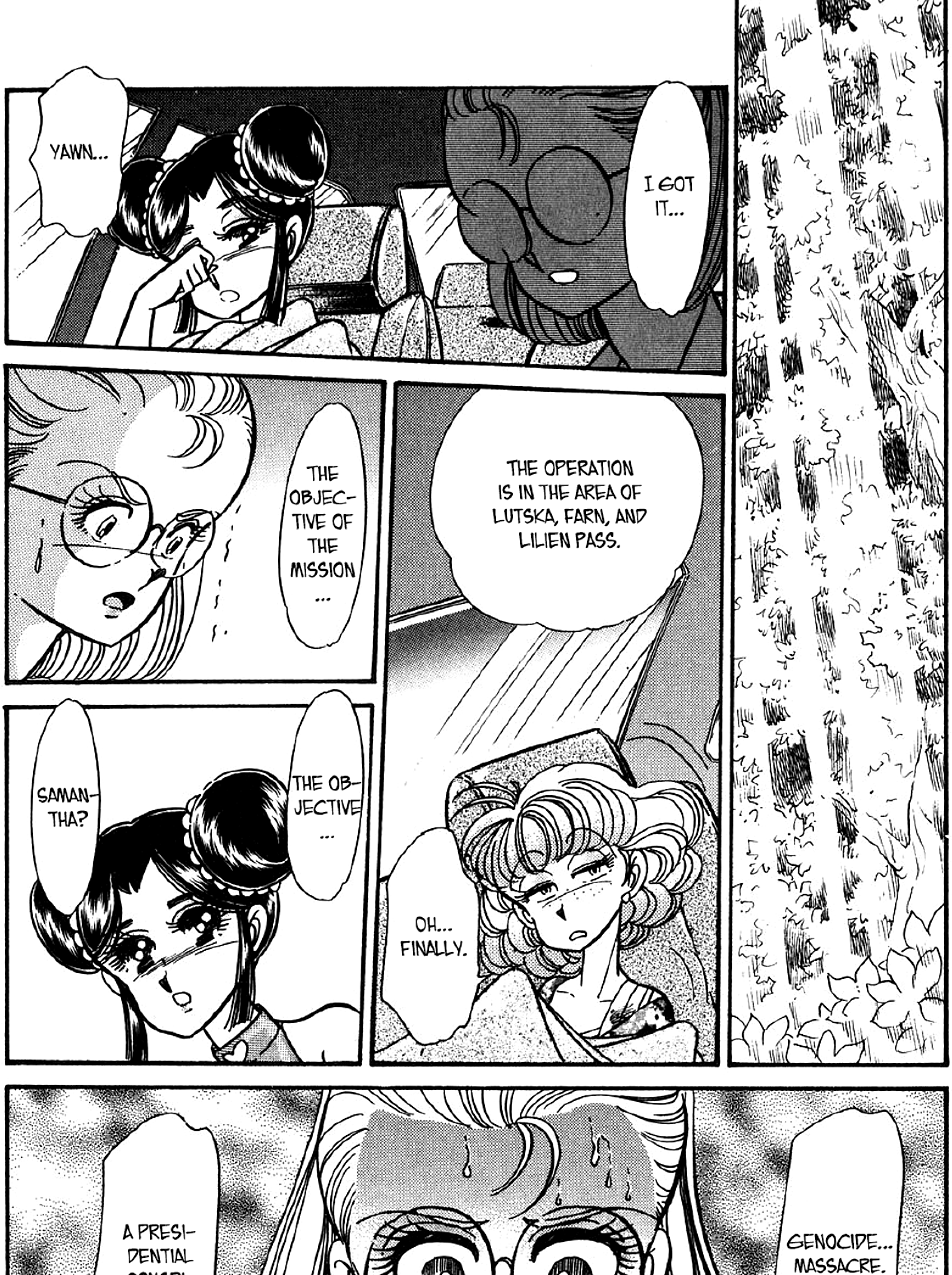

FILE... TERMS OF NEGOTIATION WITH THE VESBANIA GOVERNMENT.
SKIP OVER ALL THAT STUFF!!
WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW IS WHERE THE COMMANDER AND THE OTHERS ARE FIGHTING.
カタッ カタッ
(SFX) TAP TAP
THERE ARE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FILES HERE. WE HAVE NO IDEA WHICH ONE CONTAINS THAT INFORMATION.
I HAVE TO LOOK AT ALL OF THEM.
DAMN!
HELP
HOME CLR
ROLL DOWN
SHIFT
LIN, I'M GONNA REST AWHILE. IF THERE'S ANYTHING TO SEE, WAKE ME UP.
OKAY
FILE 15... VESBANIA DOMESTIC AFFAIRS...
FWAHH... IT'S ALREADY NIGHT TIME.

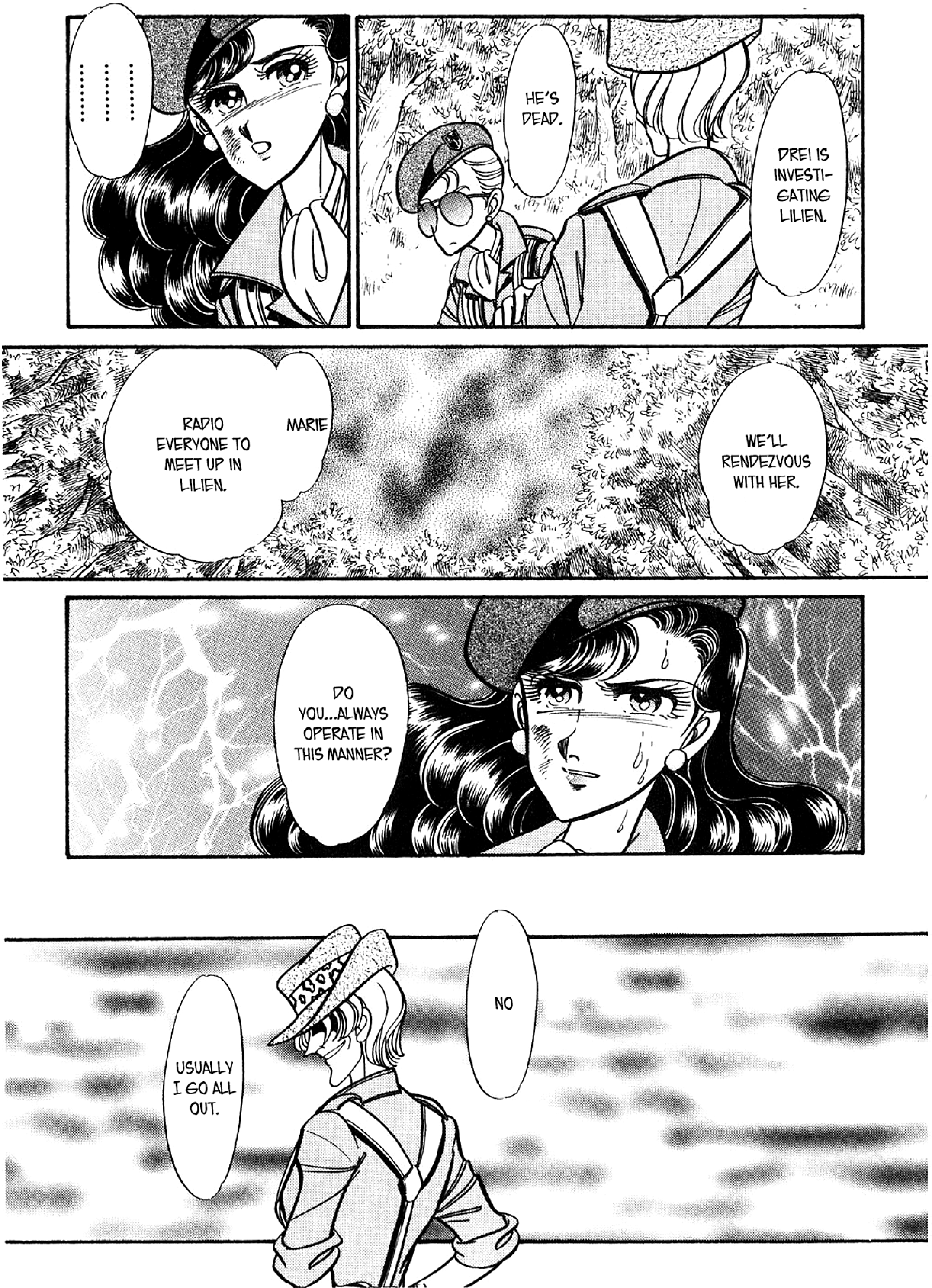

UH... AH
IT ISN'T WORKING. GIVE HIM ANOTHER.
TWO SHOTS OF MESCALINE IS DANGEROUS.
AND ANYWAY, USING MESCALINE ON CIVILIANS IS AGAINST CAT REGULATIONS.
FIRST...THIS IS NOT A CAT OPERATION. SO CAT REGULATIONS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
SECOND... THIS GUY IS NOT A CIVILIAN. HE IS AN ANTI-GOVERNMENT SOLDIER.
AND THIRD...
SUBORDINATES DO NOT OFFER OPINIONS TO SUPERIOR OFFICERS!!

(SFX) WHAM


DELA
ANOTHER SHOT
IF IT GOES BADLY, HE'LL DIE.
IF HE DIES, YOU'LL FETCH ME ANOTHER ONE.
LISTEN
THIS SHOT IS GONNA MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD.
……
WAS ANYTHING TAKEN FROM THE SITE OF THE CRASHED PLANE?
I D- D- DON'T KNOW.

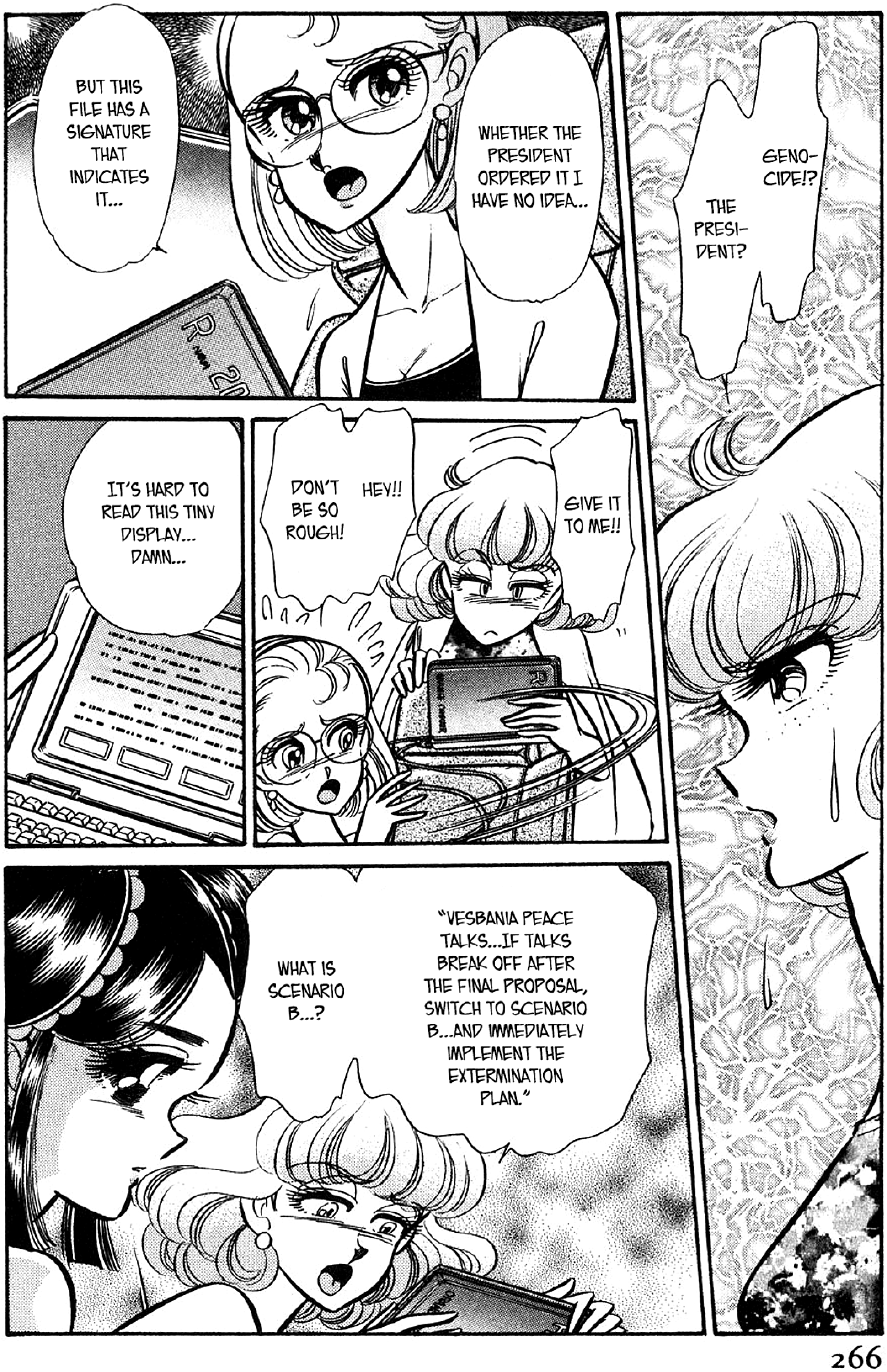

IT WAS A DIFFERENT GROUP THAT WENT TO THE CRASH SITE...
AN... ELITE... TEAM...
WHERE IS THAT ELITE TEAM?
...LILIEN TOWN
WHERE IN LILIEN...
...HOUSE...
TSK...
WE WEREN'T ABLE TO HEAR THE END OF IT.
......

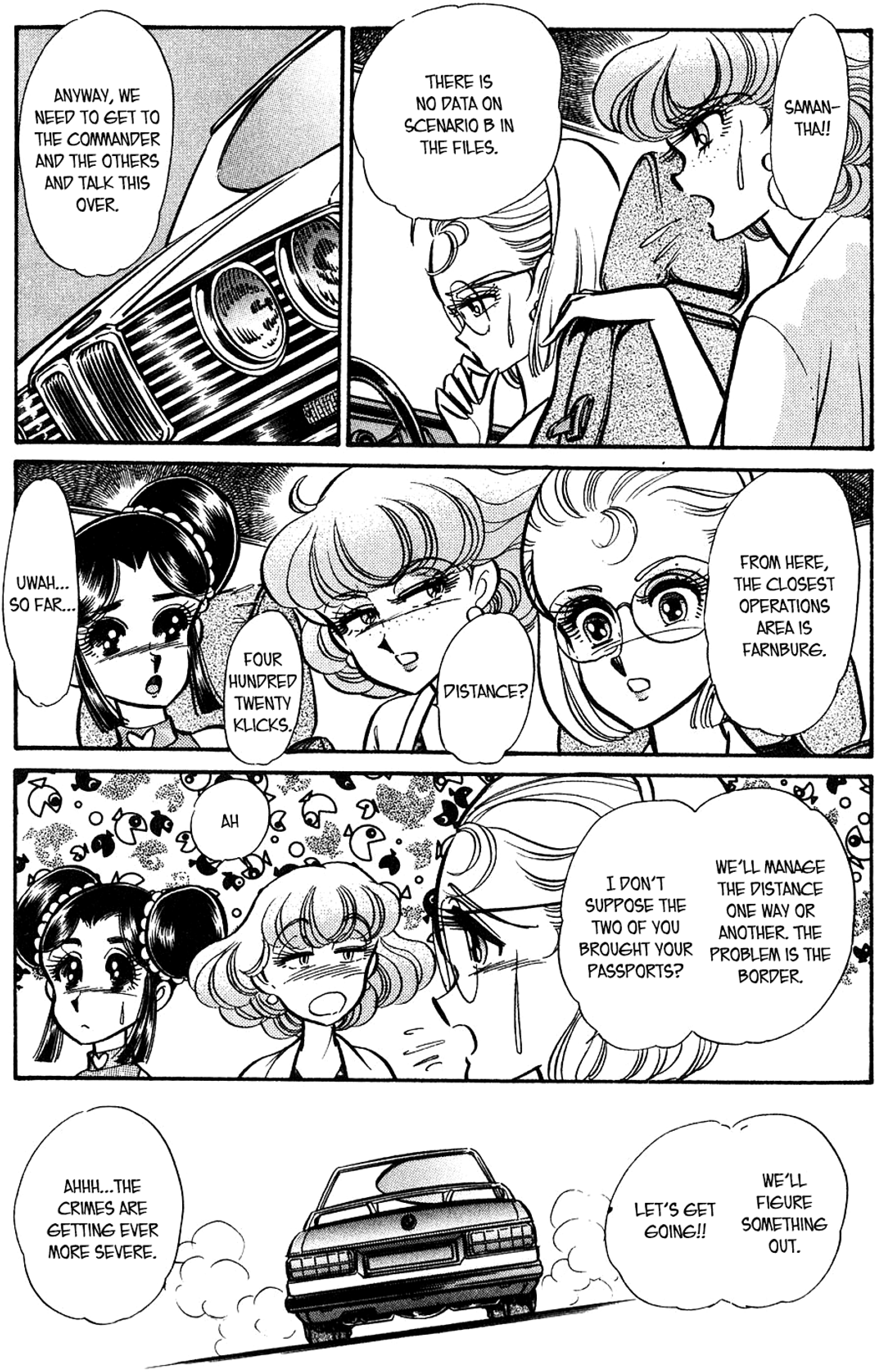

I GOT IT...
YAWN...
THE OPERATION IS IN THE AREA OF LUTSKA, FARN, AND LILIEN PASS.
THE OBJECTIVE OF THE MISSION...
OH... FINALLY.
THE OBJECTIVE...
SAMANTHA?
GENOCIDE... MASSACRE.
A PRESIDENTIAL CONSPIRACY...

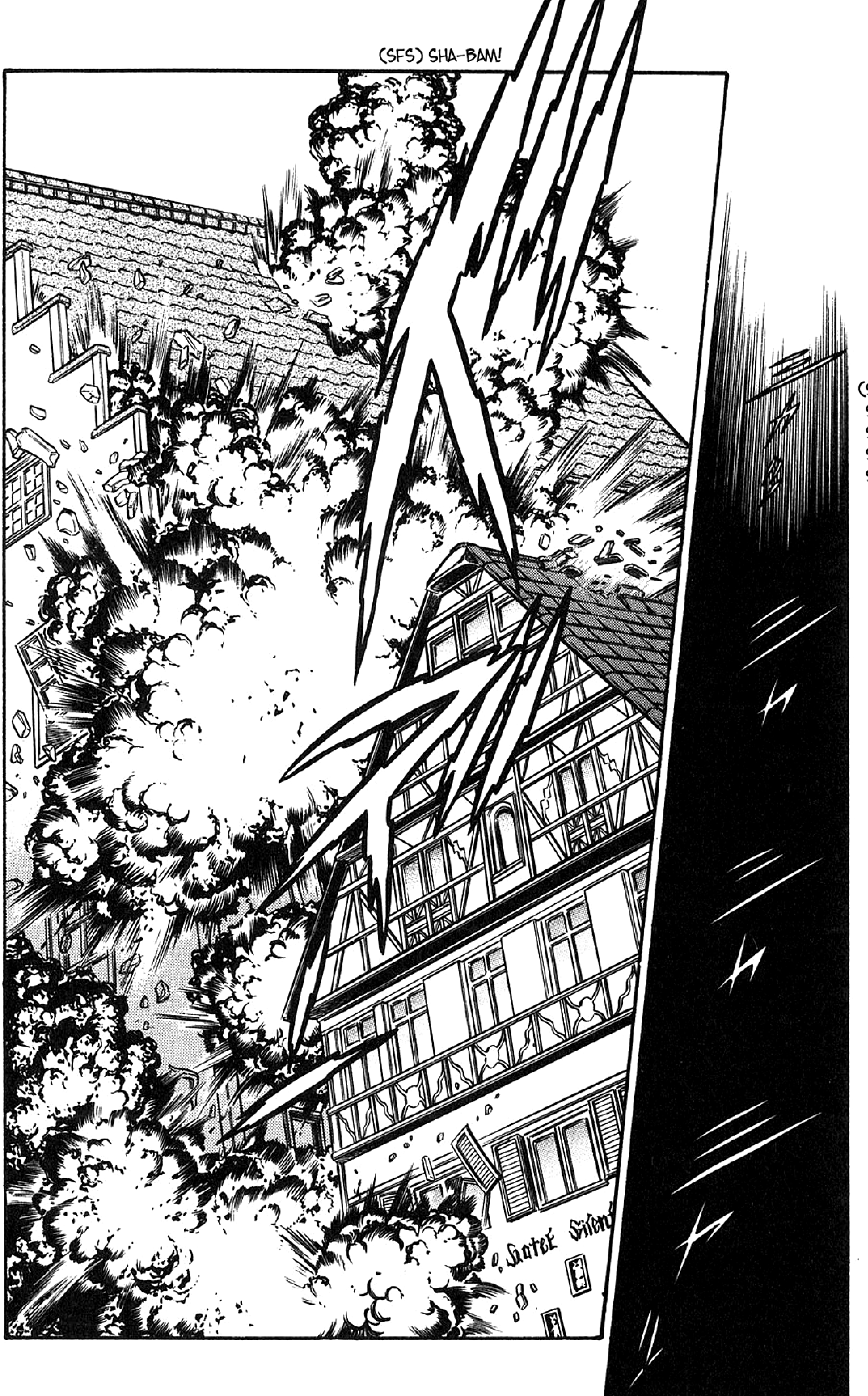

......
HE'S DEAD.
DREI IS INVESTIGATING LILIEN.
MARIE
RADIO EVERYONE TO MEET UP IN LILIEN.
WE'LL RENDEZVOUS WITH HER.
DO YOU...ALWAYS OPERATE IN THIS MANNER?
NO
USUALLY I GO ALL OUT.

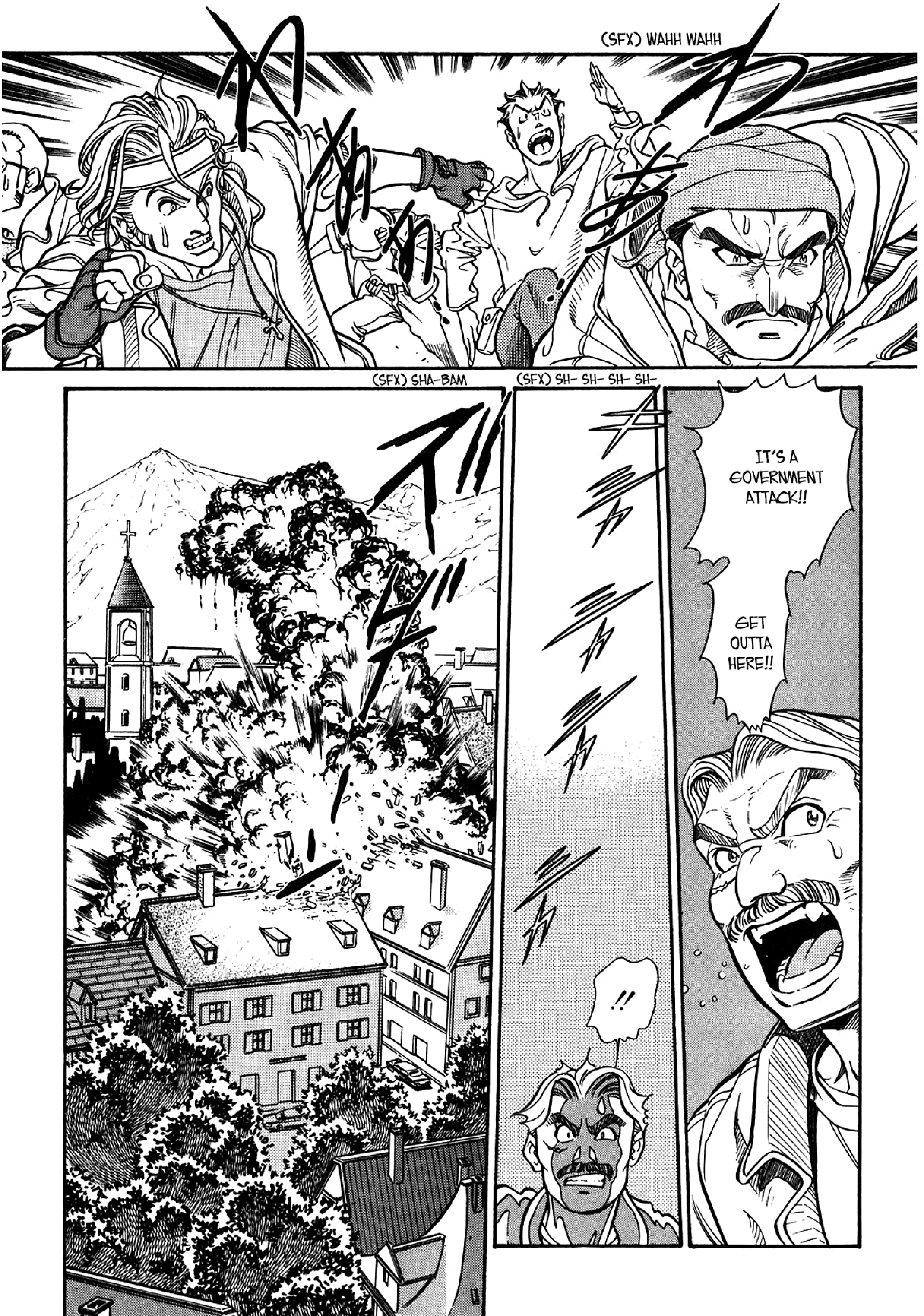
砂の薔薇
デザート・ローズ

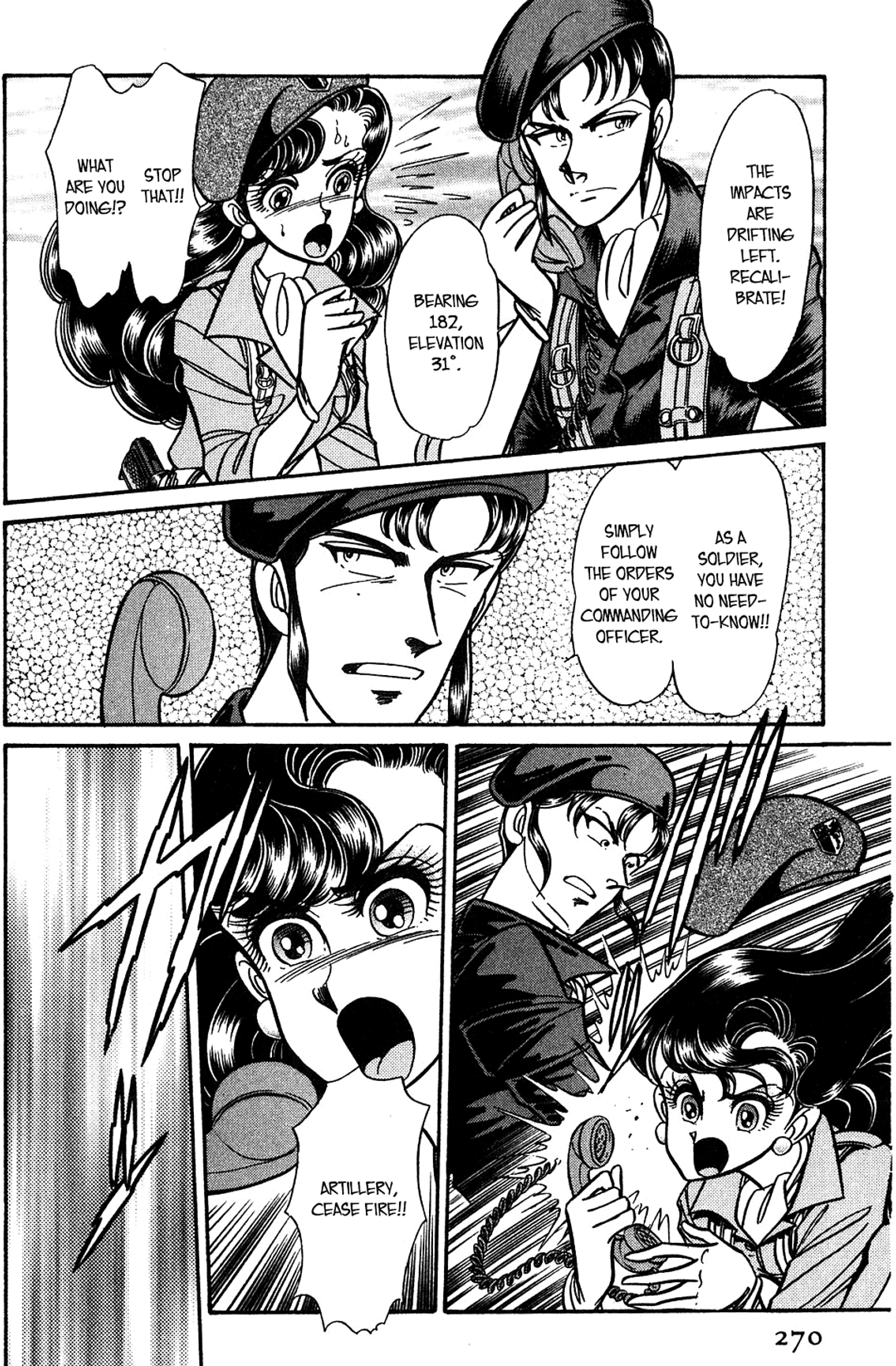
File 25: Double Spade (7)

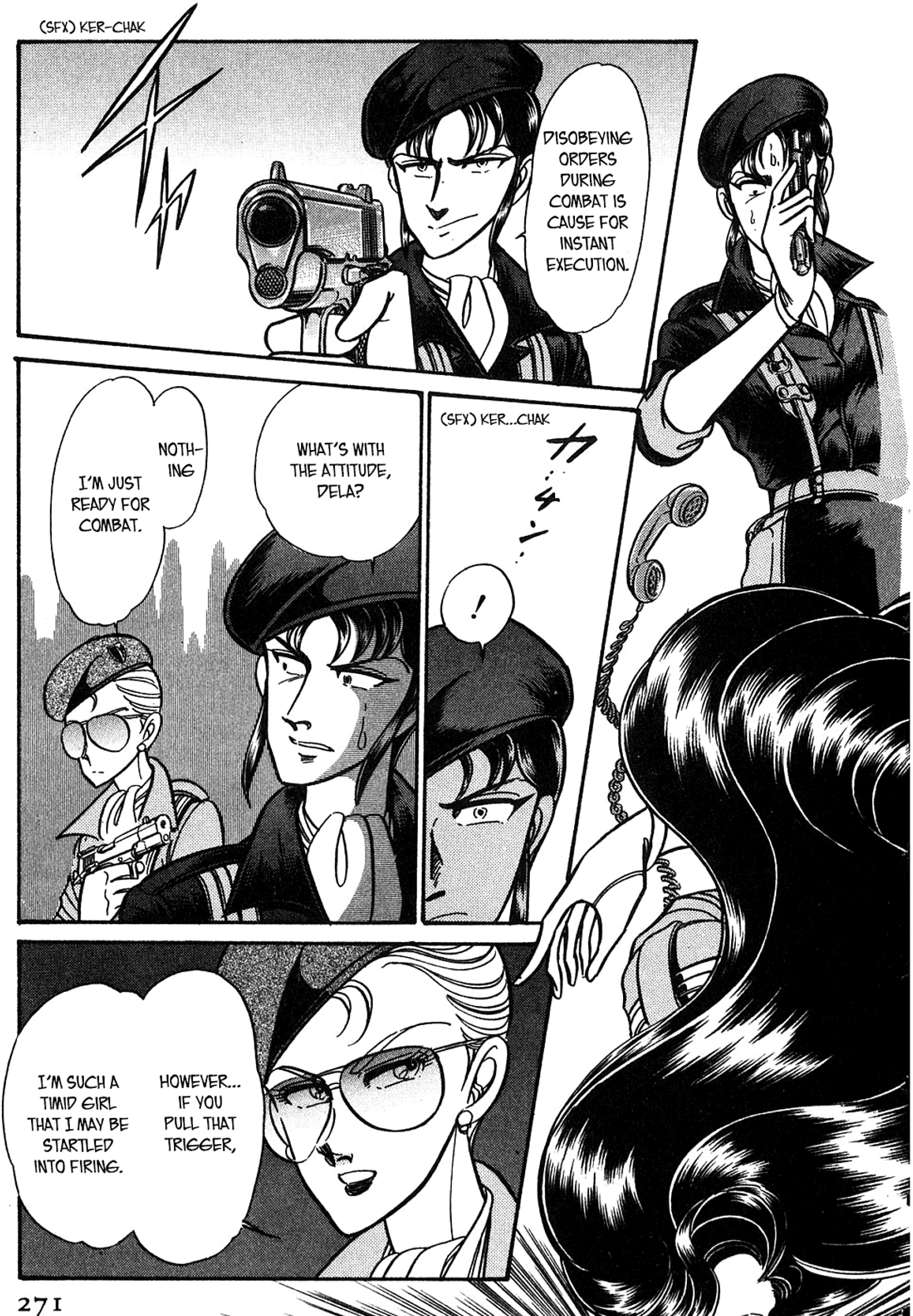

GENOCIDE!?
THE PRESIDENT?
WHETHER THE PRESIDENT ORDERED IT I HAVE NO IDEA...
BUT THIS FILE HAS A SIGNATURE THAT INDICATES IT...
GIVE IT TO ME!!
HEY!!
DON'T BE SO ROUGH!
IT'S HARD TO READ THIS TINY DISPLAY... DAMN...
"VESBANIA PEACE TALKS...IF TALKS BREAK OFF AFTER THE FINAL PROPOSAL, SWITCH TO SCENARIO B...AND IMMEDIATELY IMPLEMENT THE EXTERMINATION PLAN."
WHAT IS SCENARIO B...?

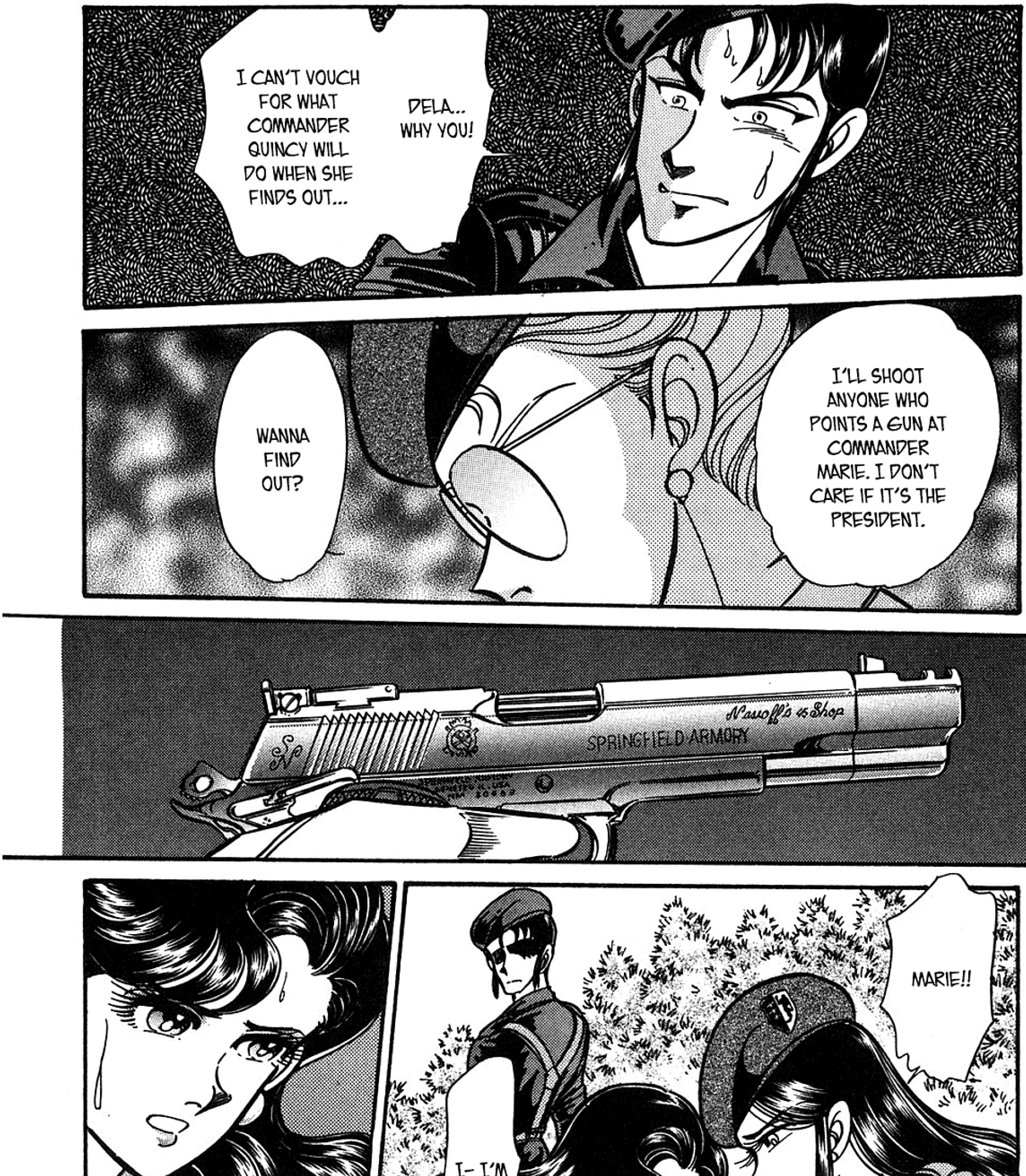

SAMAN-THA!!
THERE IS NO DATA ON SCENARIO B IN THE FILES.
ANYWAY, WE NEED TO GET TO THE COMMANDER AND THE OTHERS AND TALK THIS OVER.
FROM HERE, THE CLOSEST OPERATIONS AREA IS FARNBURG.
DISTANCE?
FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY KLICKS.
UWAH... SO FAR...
WE'LL MANAGE THE DISTANCE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. THE PROBLEM IS THE BORDER.
I DON'T SUPPOSE THE TWO OF YOU BROUGHT YOUR PASSPORTS?
AH
WE'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.
LET'S GET GOING!!
AHHH...THE CRIMES ARE GETTING EVER MORE SEVERE.


(SFS) SHA-BAM!
(SFX) SH- SH- SH- SH-


(SFX) WAHH WAHH
IT'S A GOVERNMENT ATTACK!!
GET OUTTA HERE!!
!!
(SFX) SH- SH- SH- SH-
(SFX) SHA-BAM


THE IMPACTS ARE DRIFTING LEFT. RECALIBRATE!
BEARING 182, ELEVATION 31°.
STOP THAT!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
AS A SOLDIER, YOU HAVE NO NEED-TO-KNOW!!
SIMPLY FOLLOW THE ORDERS OF YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER.
ARTILLERY, CEASE FIRE!!

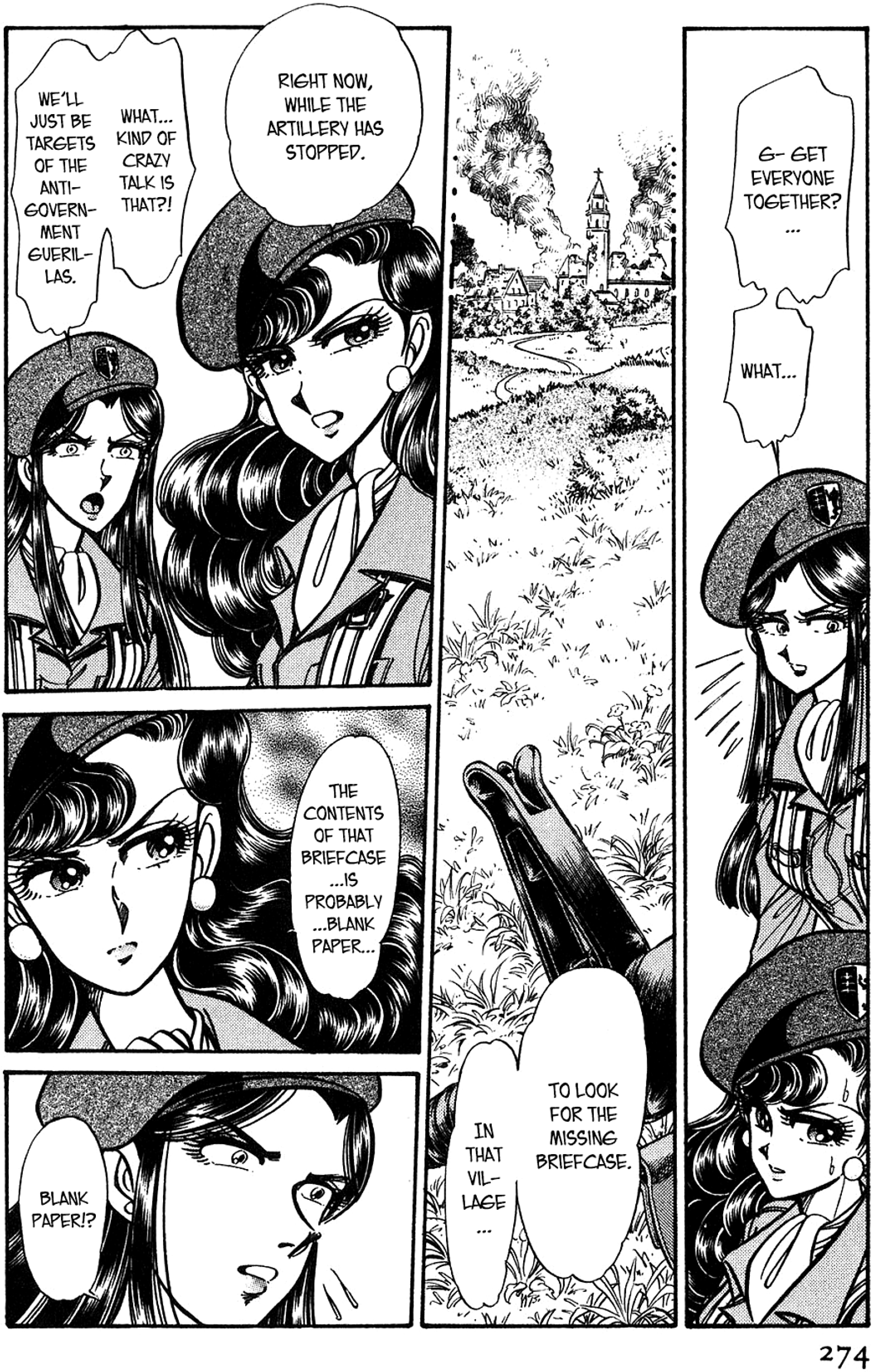

(SFX) KER-CHAK
DISOBEYING ORDERS DURING COMBAT IS CAUSE FOR INSTANT EXECUTION.
(SFX) KER...CHAK
!
WHAT'S WITH THE ATTITUDE, DELA?
NOTHING
I'M JUST READY FOR COMBAT.
HOWEVER... IF YOU PULL THAT TRIGGER,
I'M SUCH A TIMID GIRL THAT I MAY BE STARTLED INTO FIRING.

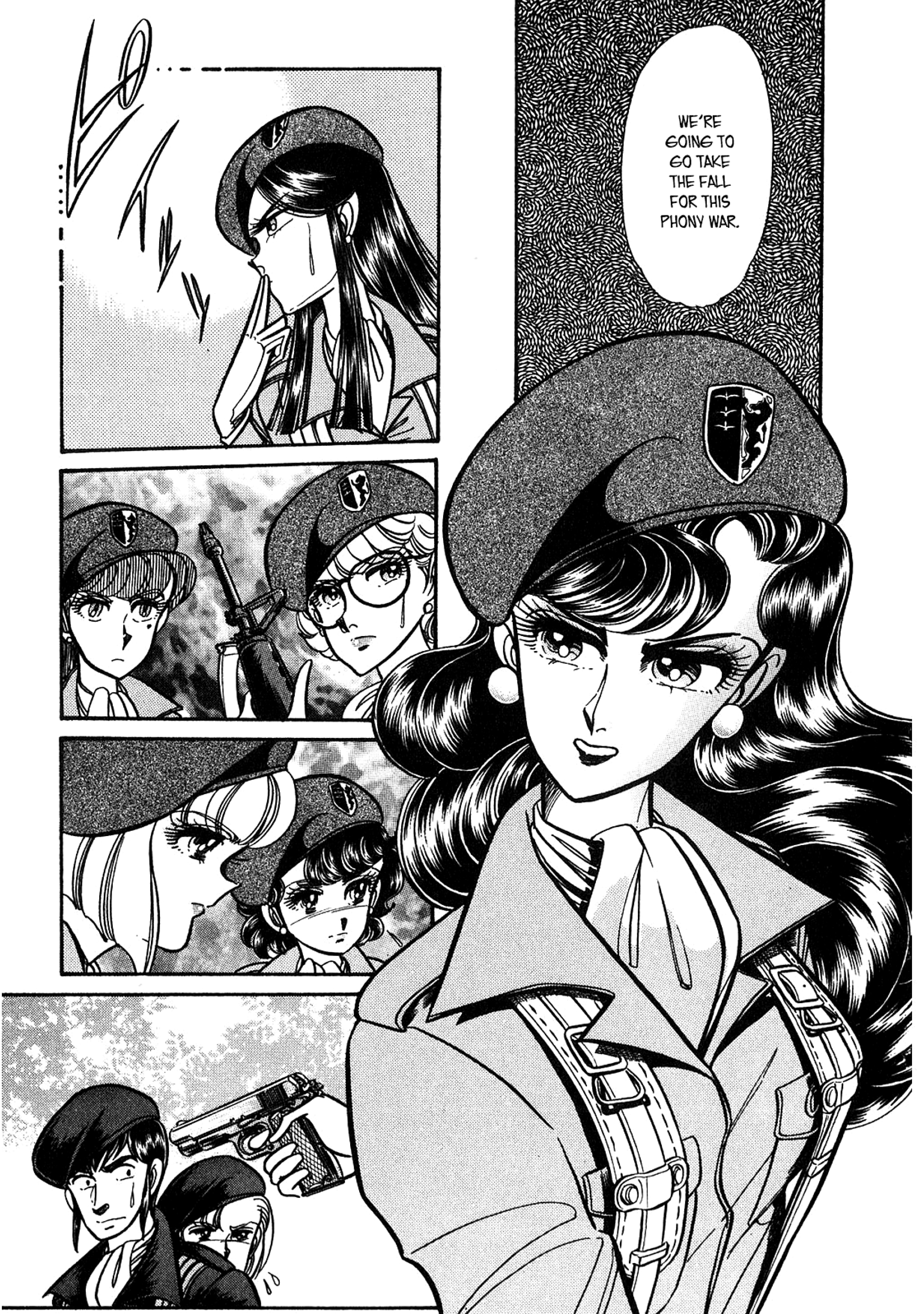

I CAN'T VOUCH FOR WHAT COMMANDER QUINCY WILL DO WHEN SHE FINDS OUT...
DELA... WHY YOU!
I'LL SHOOT ANYONE WHO POINTS A GUN AT COMMANDER MARIE. I DON'T CARE IF IT'S THE PRESIDENT.
WANNA FIND OUT?
Nasoff's 45 Shop
SPRINGFIELD ARMORY
MARIE!!
I- I'M FINE.
HELGA! GET EVERYONE TOGETHER.

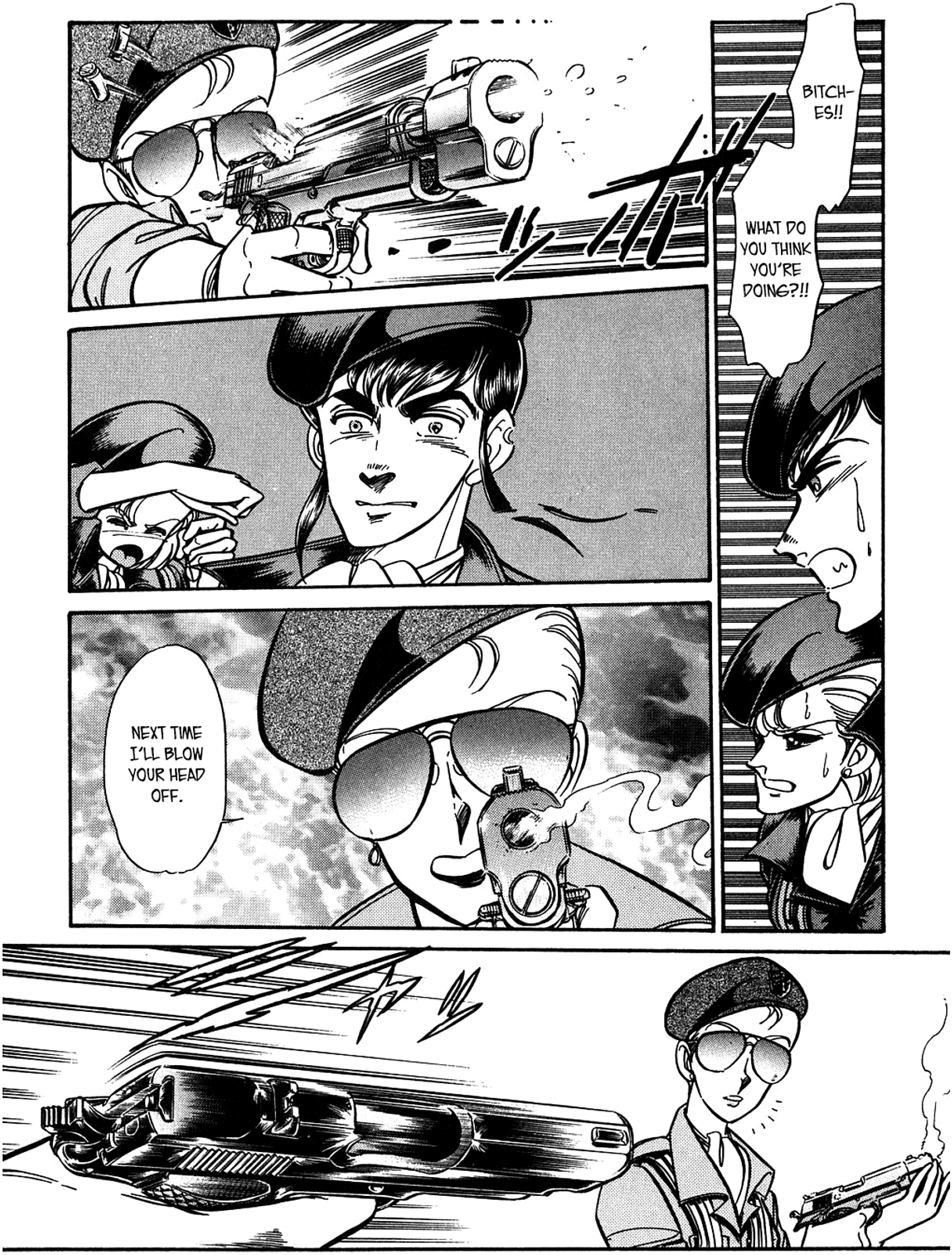
砂の薔薇

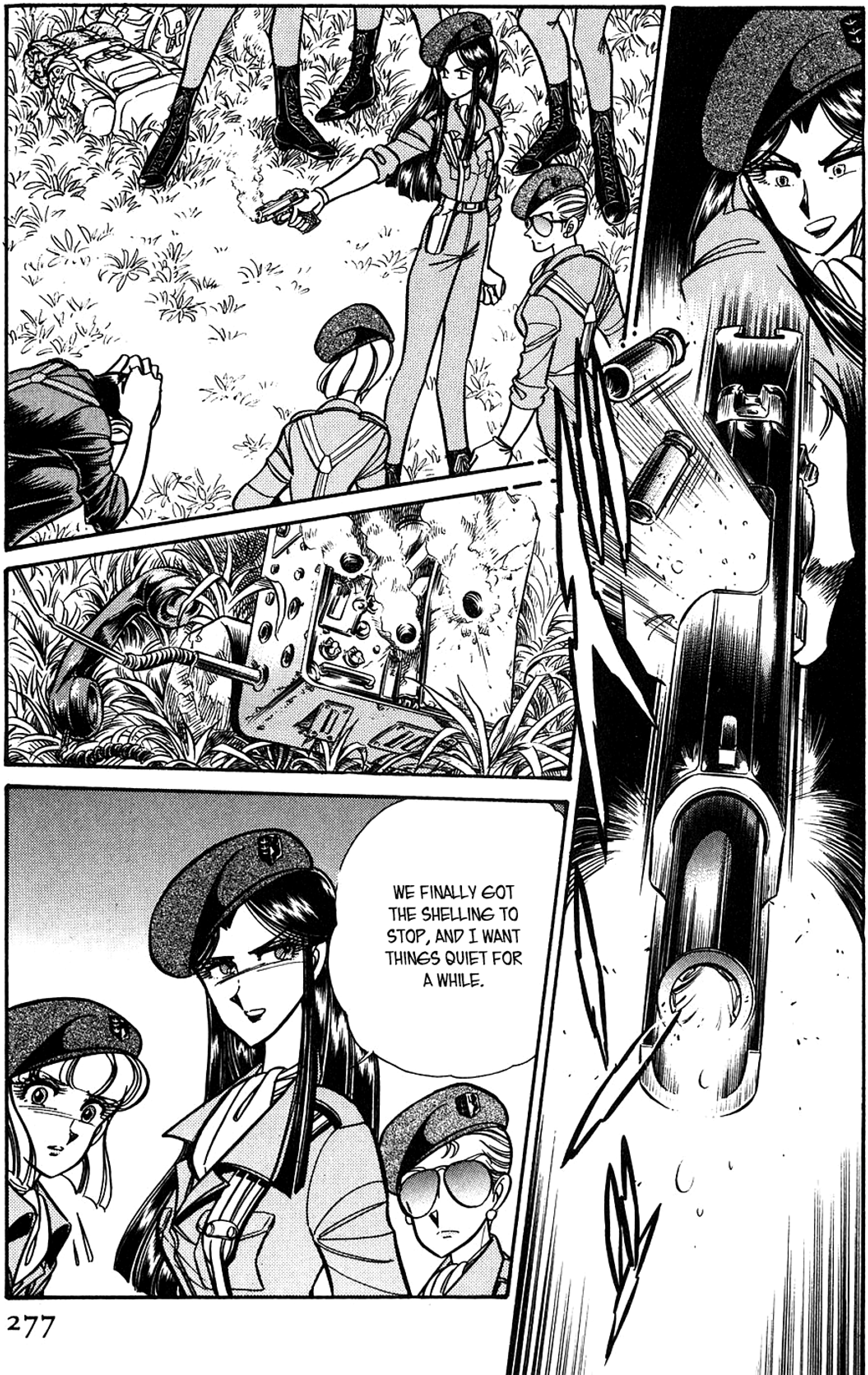
デザートーローズ

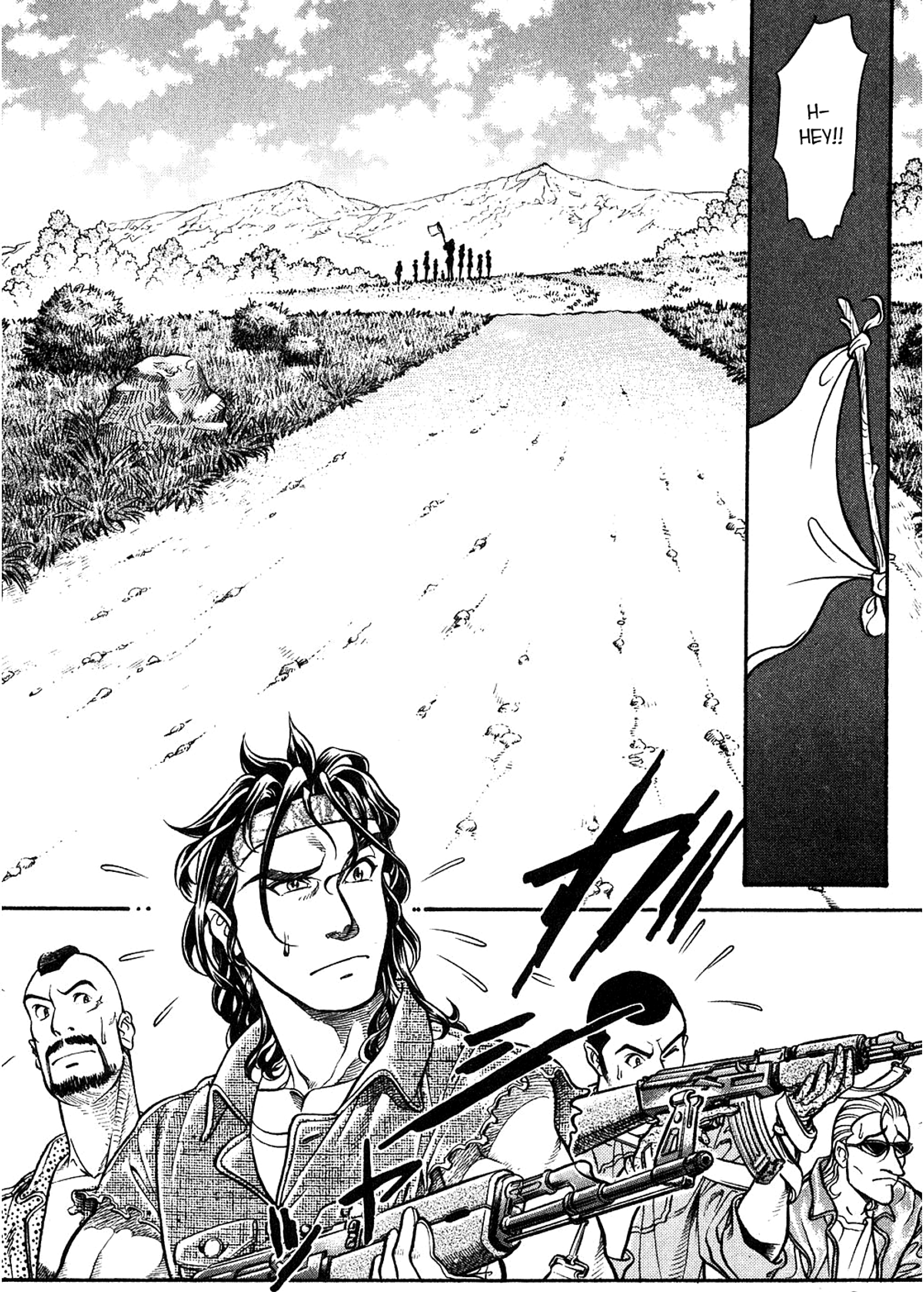
File 25: Double Spade (8)

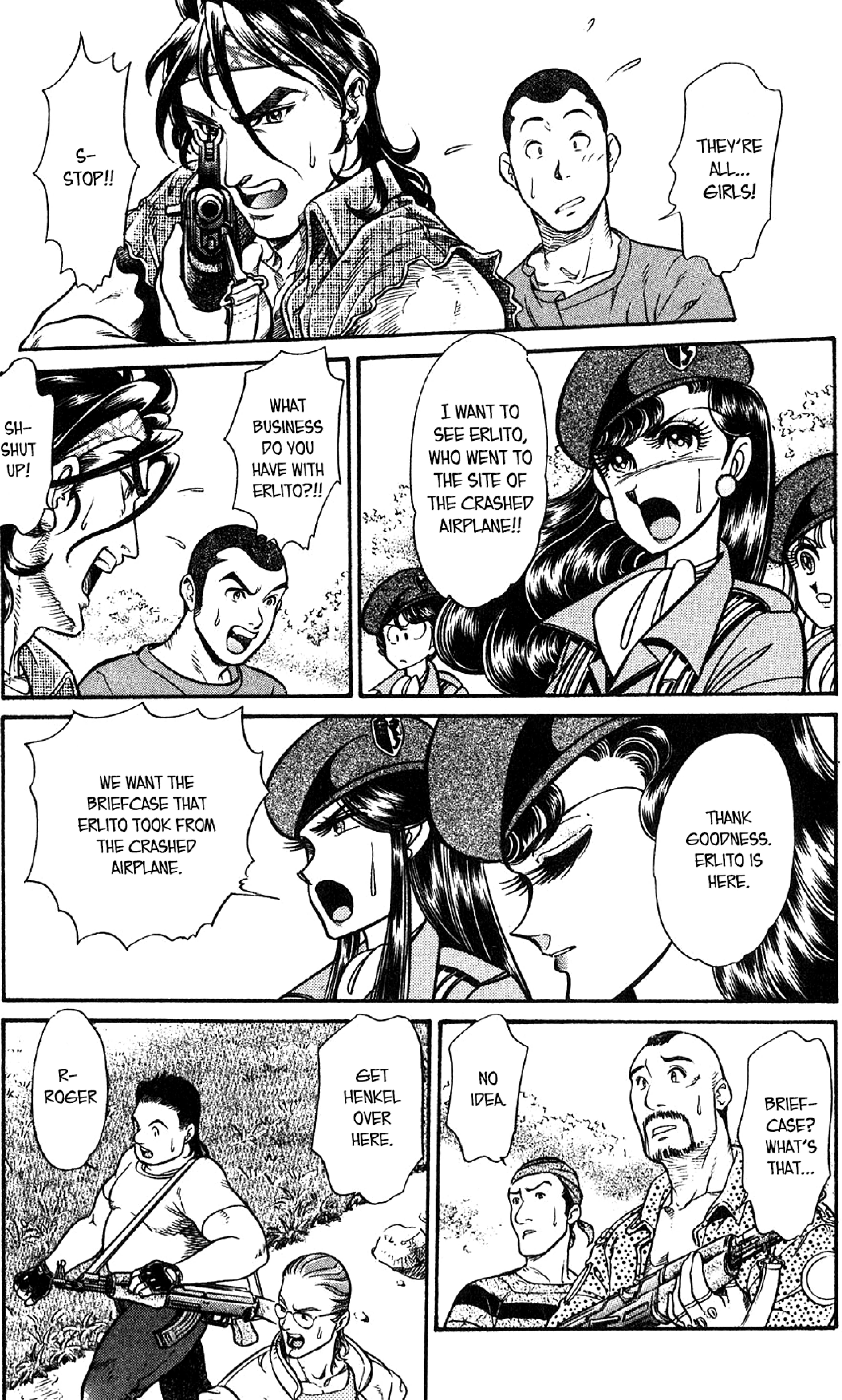

G- GET EVERYONE TOGETHER? ...
WHAT...
TO LOOK FOR THE MISSING BRIEFCASE.
IN THAT VILLAGE ...
RIGHT NOW, WHILE THE ARTILLERY HAS STOPPED.
WHAT... KIND OF CRAZY TALK IS THAT?!
WE'LL JUST BE TARGETS OF THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT GUERILLAS.
THE CONTENTS OF THAT BRIEFCASE ...IS PROBABLY ...BLANK PAPER...
BLANK PAPER!?

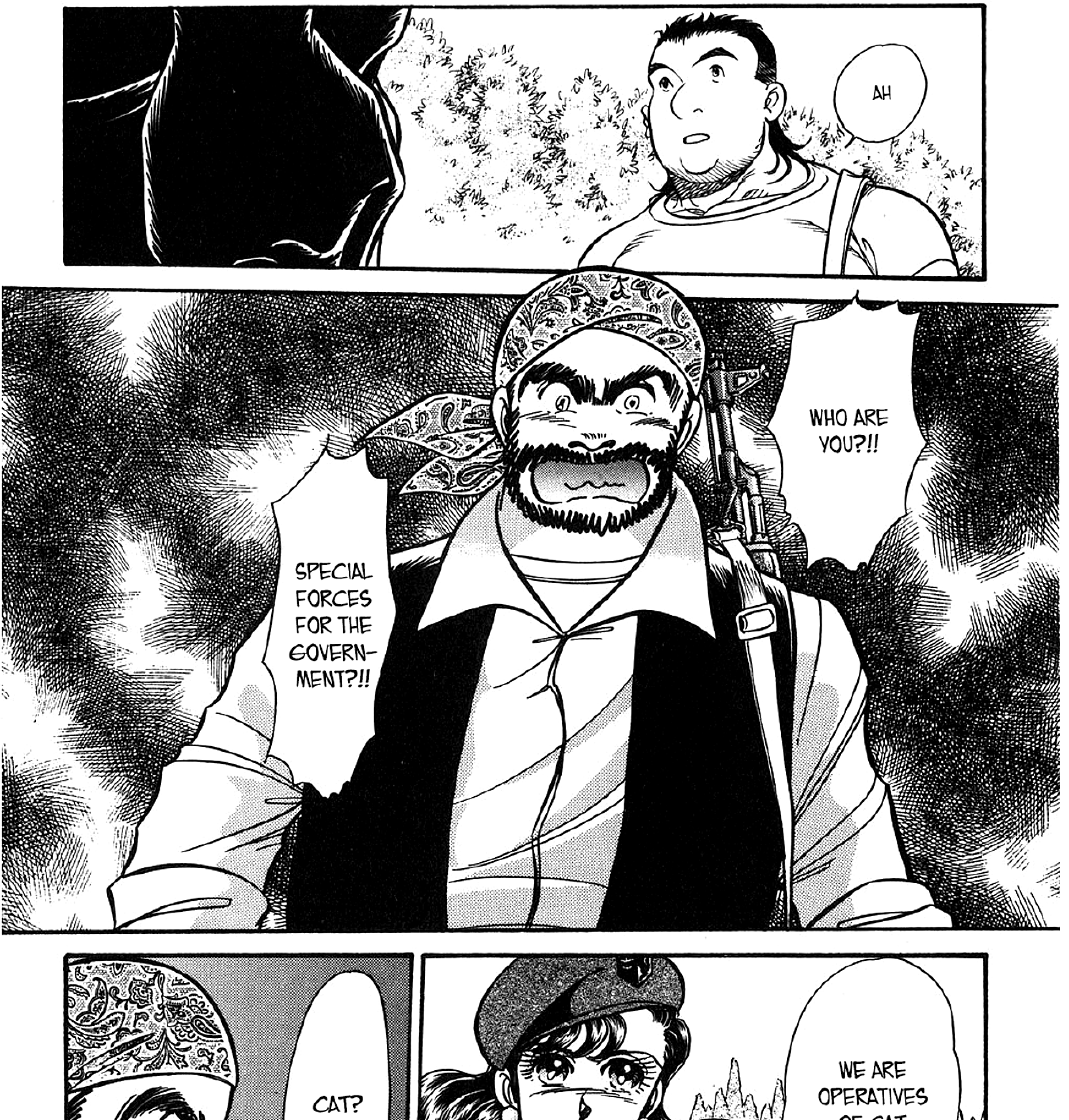

WE'RE GOING TO GO TAKE THE FALL FOR THIS PHONY WAR.

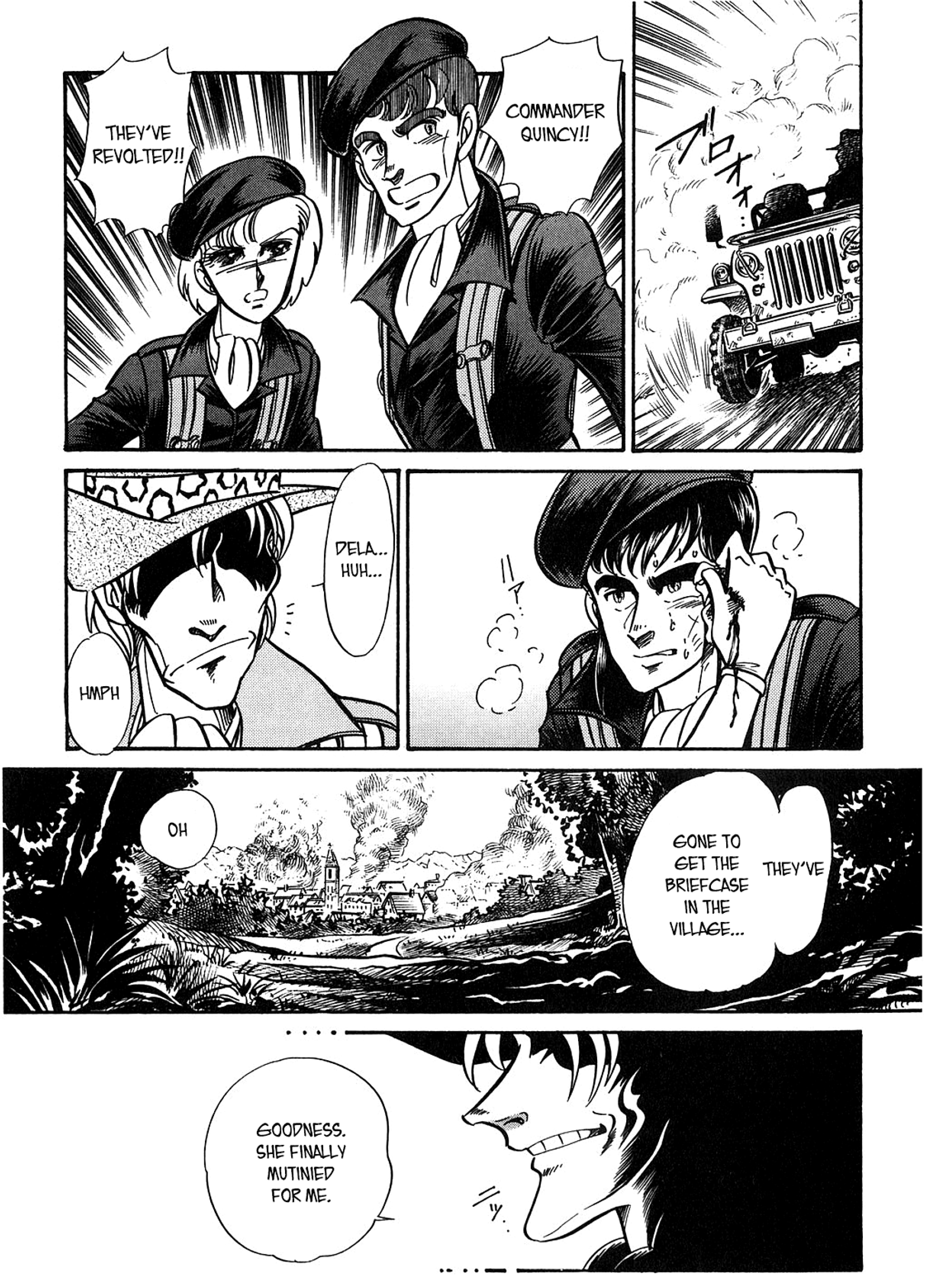

BITCH-ES!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!!
NEXT TIME I'LL BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF.

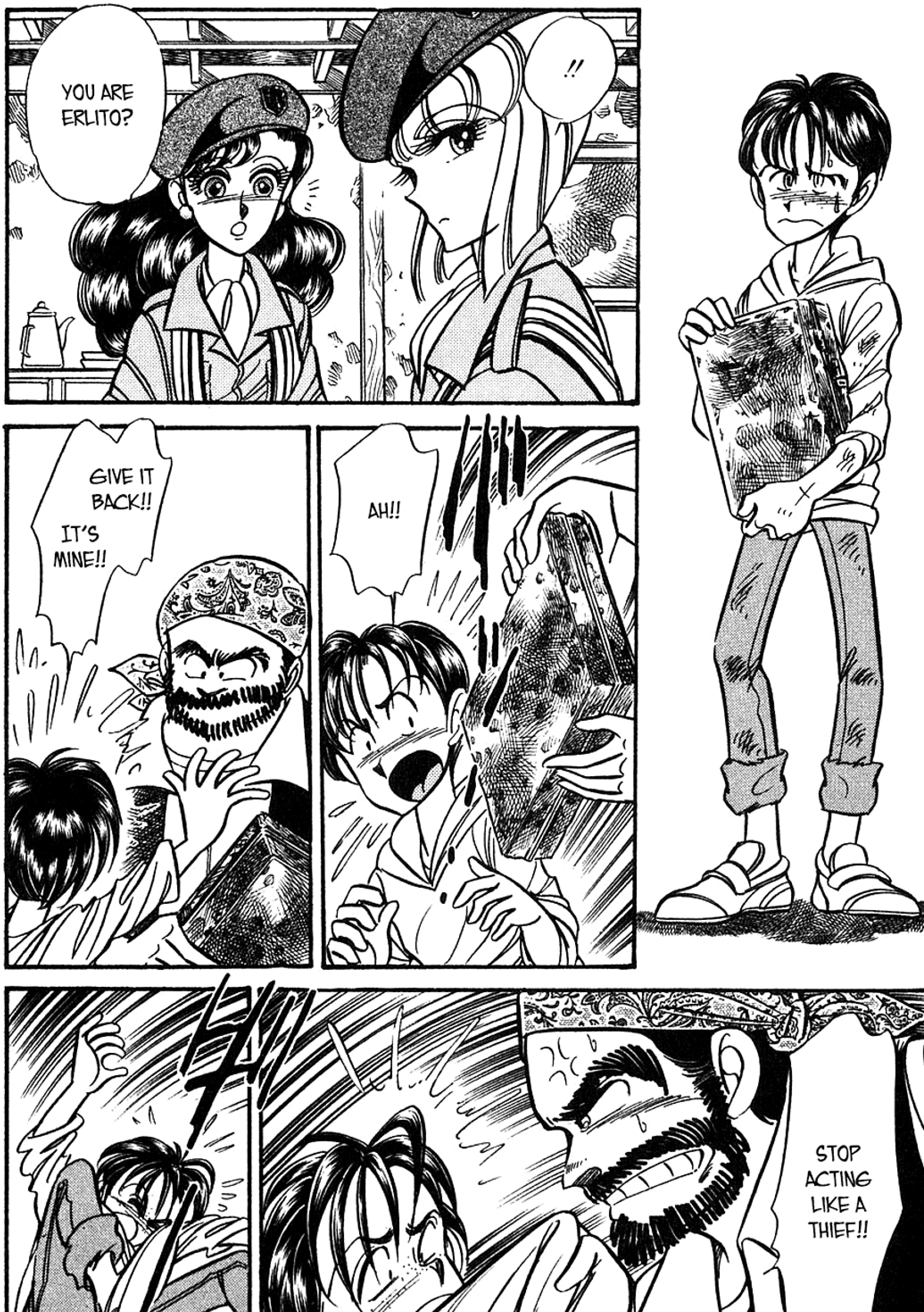

WE FINALLY GOT THE SHELLING TO STOP, AND I WANT THINGS QUIET FOR A WHILE.

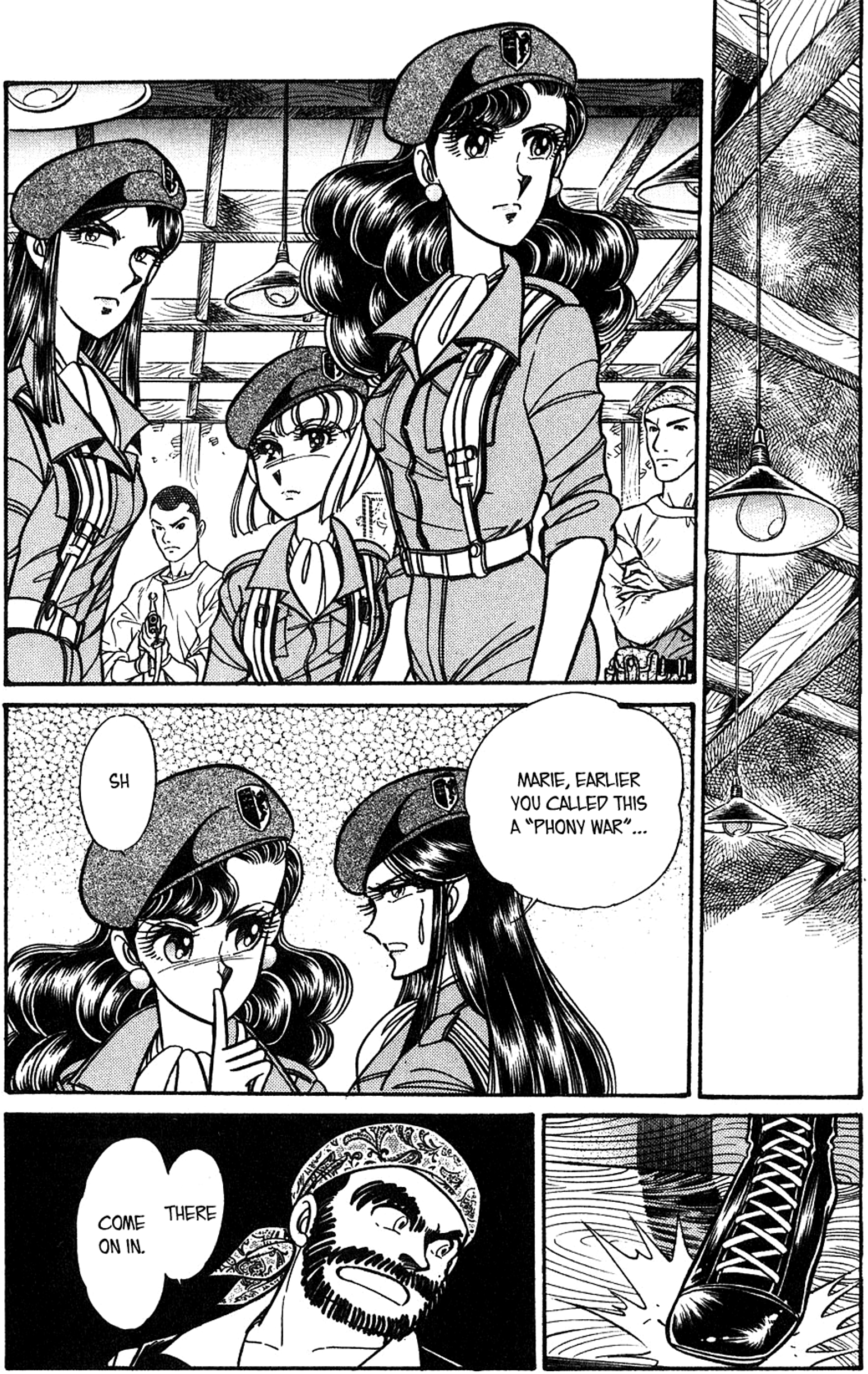

H-
HEY!!
ガシャ

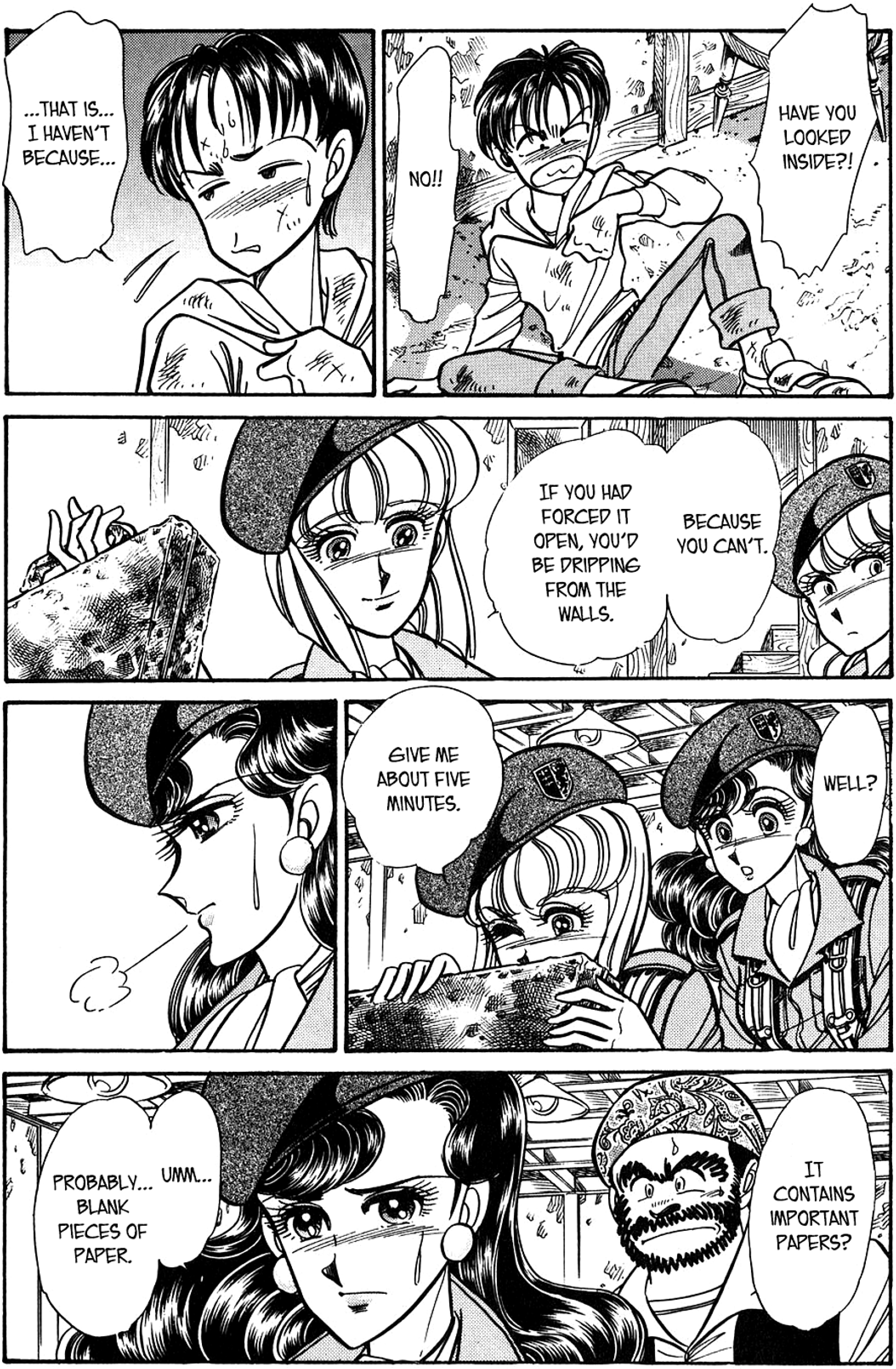

THEY'RE ALL... GIRLS!
S-STOP!!
I WANT TO SEE ERLITO, WHO WENT TO THE SITE OF THE CRASHED AIRPLANE!!
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH ERLITO?!!
SH-SHUT UP!
THANK GOODNESS. ERLITO IS HERE.
WE WANT THE BRIEFCASE THAT ERLITO TOOK FROM THE CRASHED AIRPLANE.
BRIEFCASE? WHAT'S THAT...
NO IDEA.
GET HENKEL OVER HERE.
R-ROGER

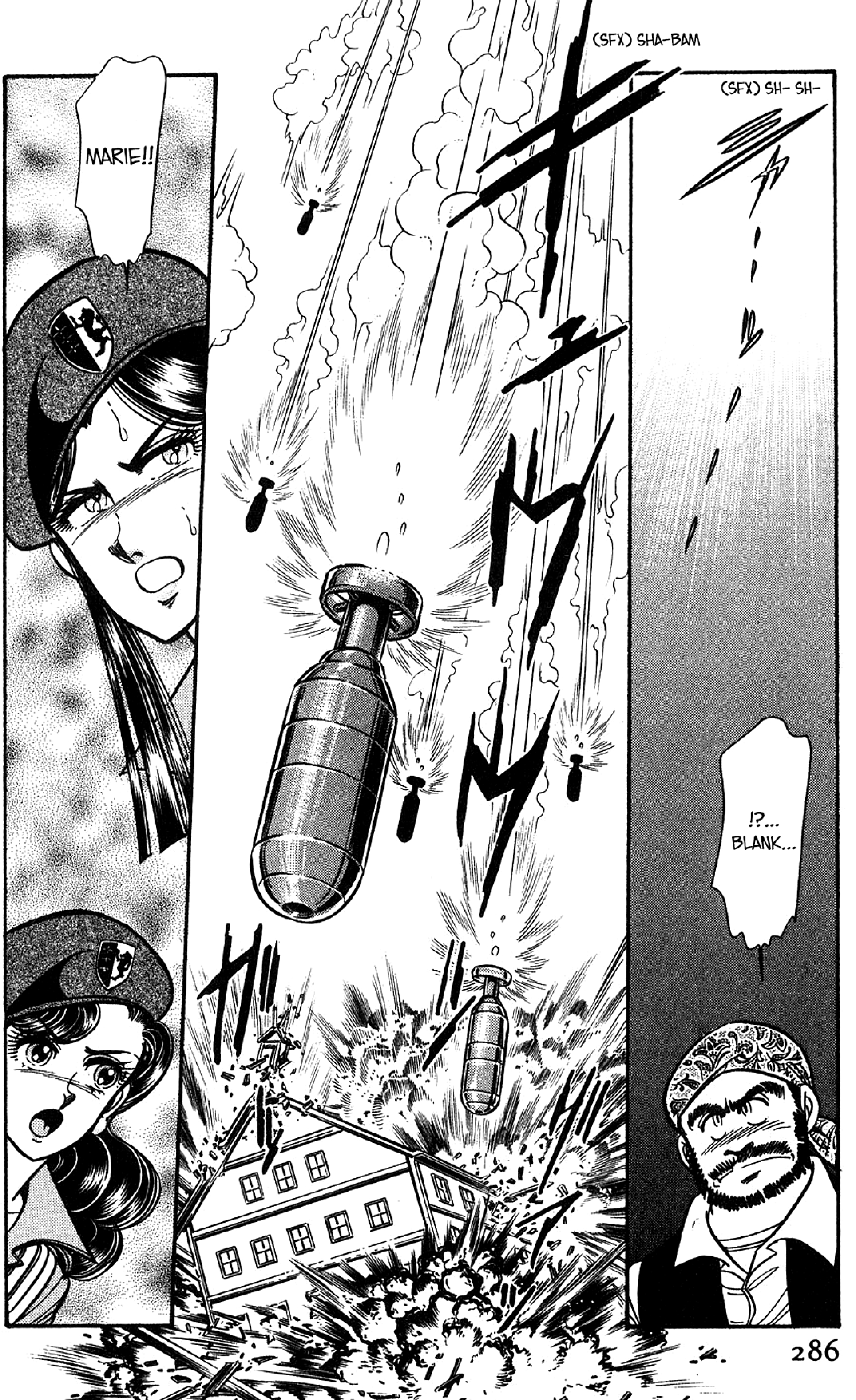

AH
WHO ARE YOU?!!
SPECIAL FORCES FOR THE GOVERNMENT?!!
WE ARE OPERATIVES OF CAT INTERNATIONAL.
Uwah... more like a gorilla than a guerrilla...
CAT? WHAT'S THAT?

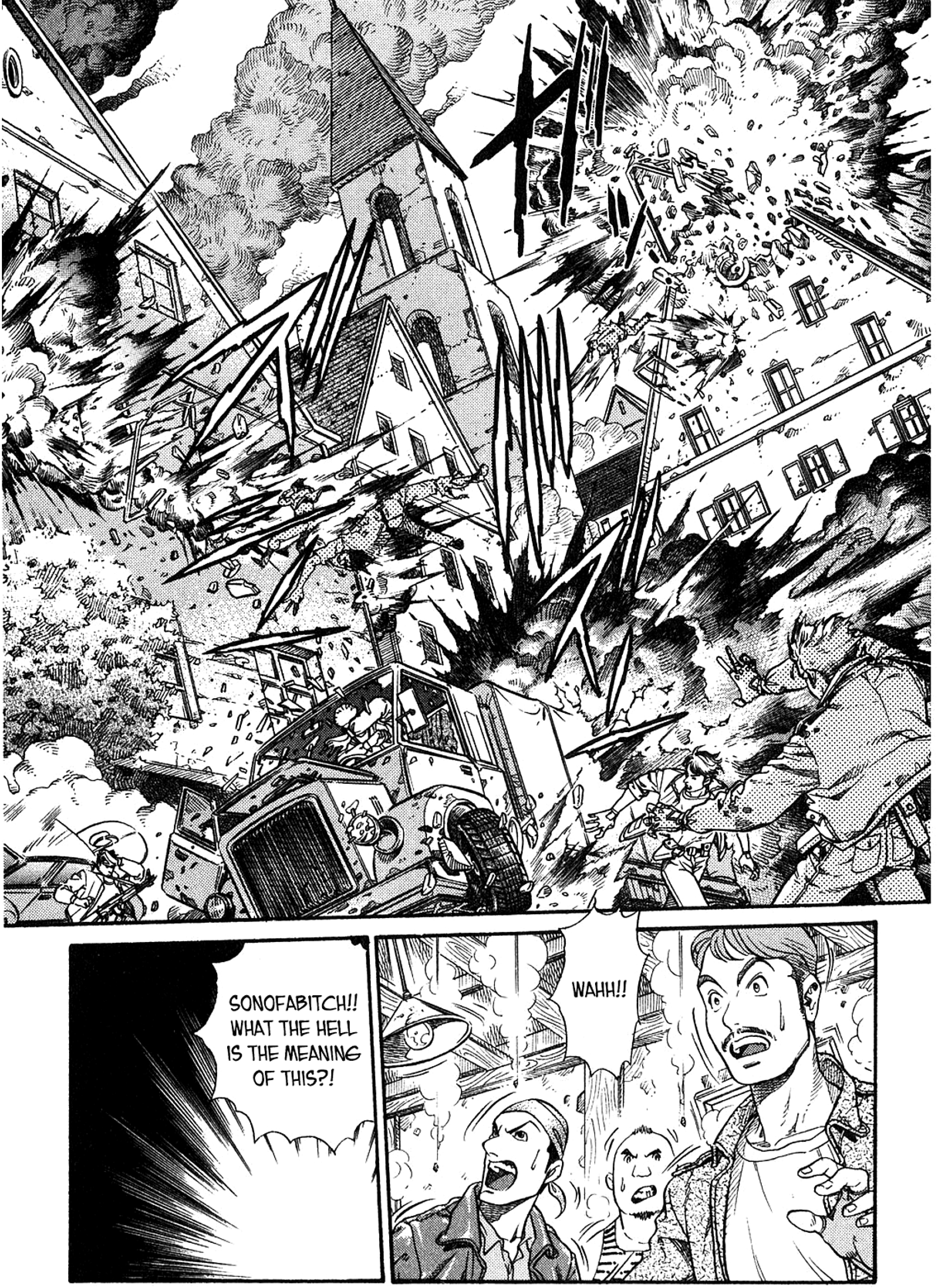

ブロオオ…
COMMANDER QUINCY!!
THEY'VE REVOLTED!!
ハァ…
DELA... HUH...
HMPH
THEY'VE GONE TO GET THE BRIEFCASE IN THE VILLAGE...
OH
GOODNESS. SHE FINALLY MUTINIED FOR ME.
ニッ…

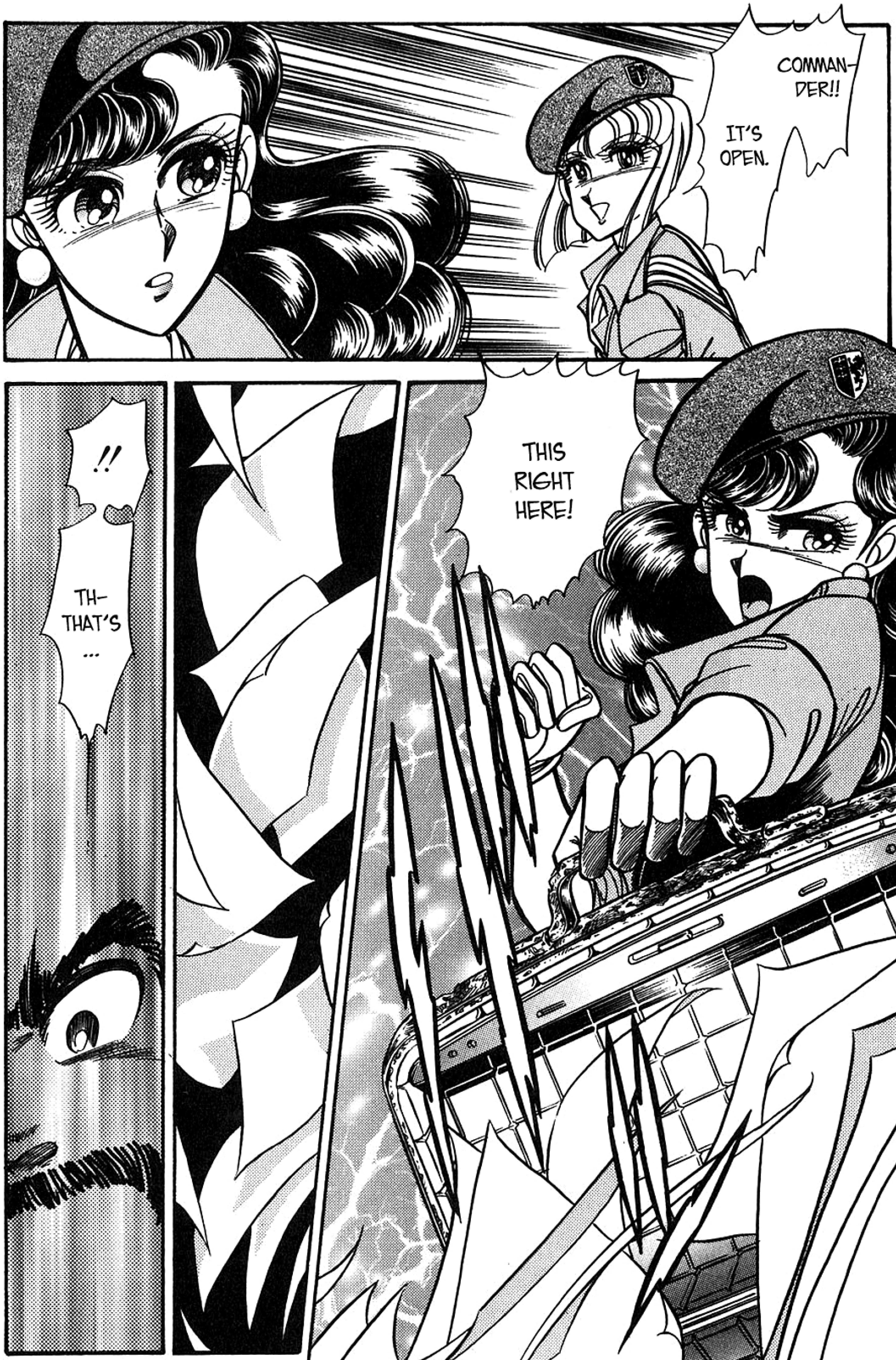

!!
YOU ARE ERLITO?
AH!!
GIVE IT BACK!! IT'S MINE!!
STOP ACTING LIKE A THIEF!!

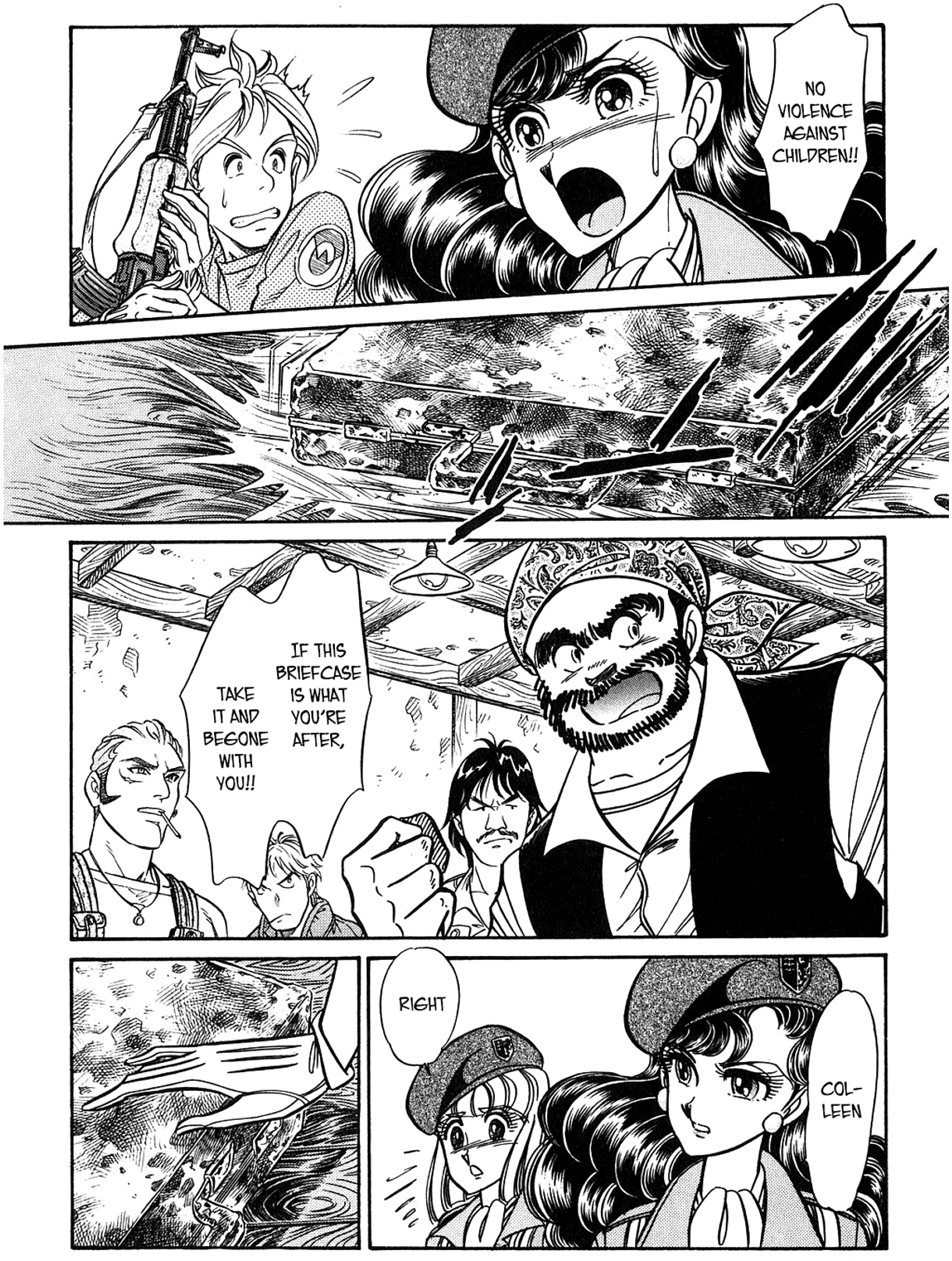

MARIE, EARLIER YOU CALLED THIS A "PHONY WAR"...
SH
THERE
COME ON IN.

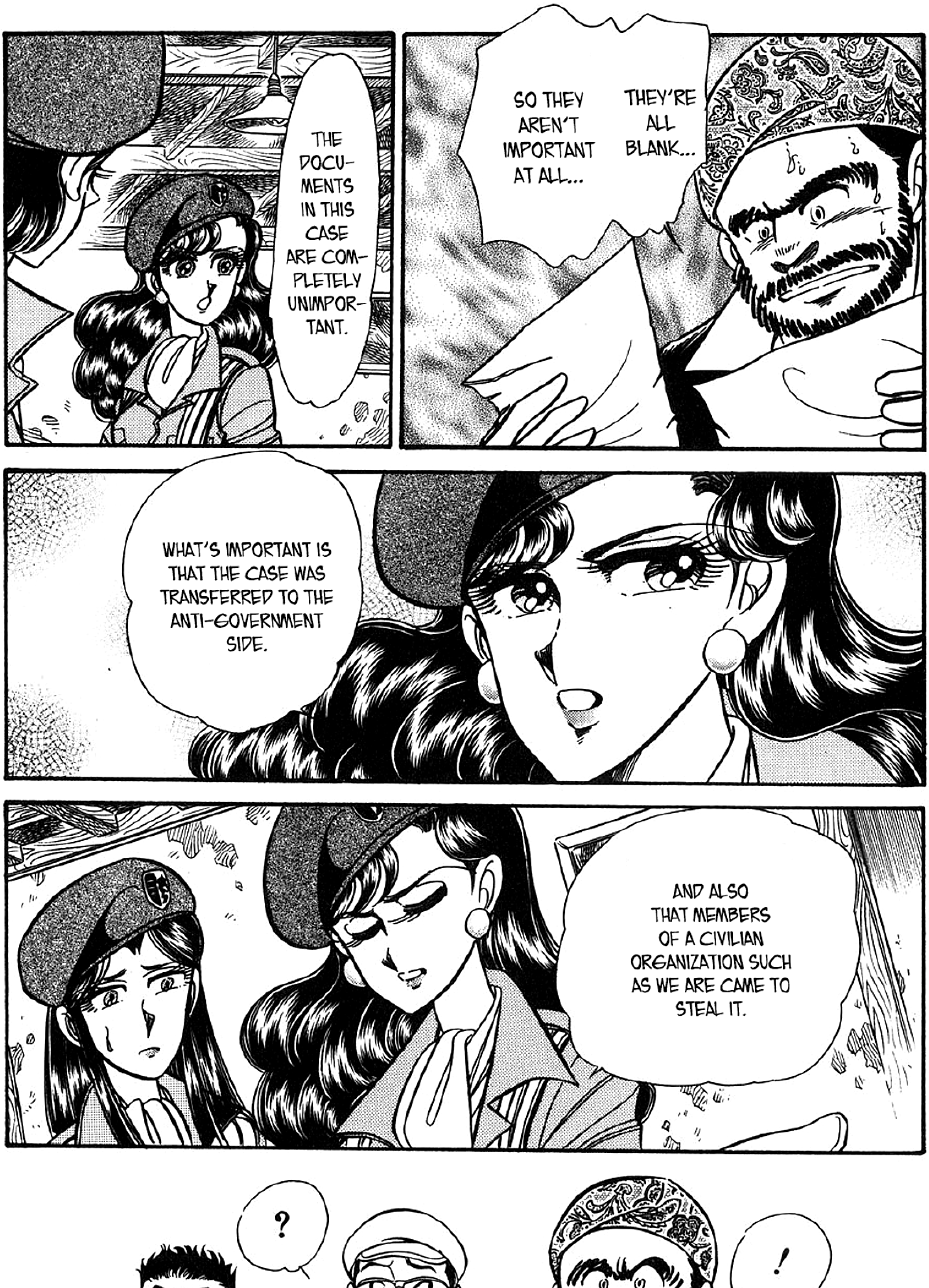

HAVE YOU LOOKED INSIDE?!
NO!!
...THAT IS... I HAVEN'T BECAUSE...
BECAUSE YOU CAN'T.
IF YOU HAD FORCED IT OPEN, YOU'D BE DRIPPING FROM THE WALLS.
WELL?
GIVE ME ABOUT FIVE MINUTES.
IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT PAPERS?
UMM...
PROBABLY... BLANK PIECES OF PAPER.

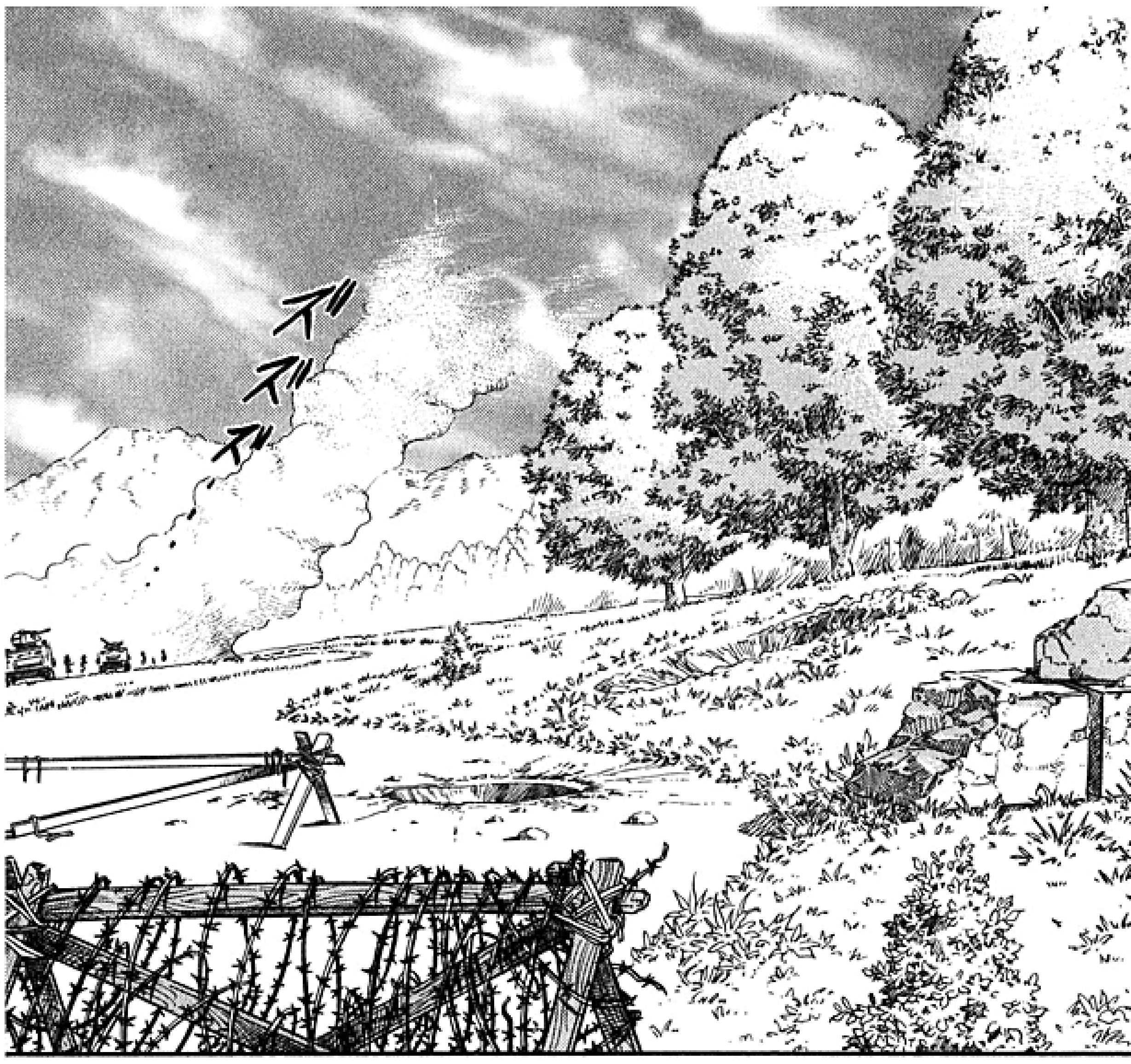

(SFX) SHA-BAM
(SFX) SH- SH-
!?... BLANK...
MARIE!!

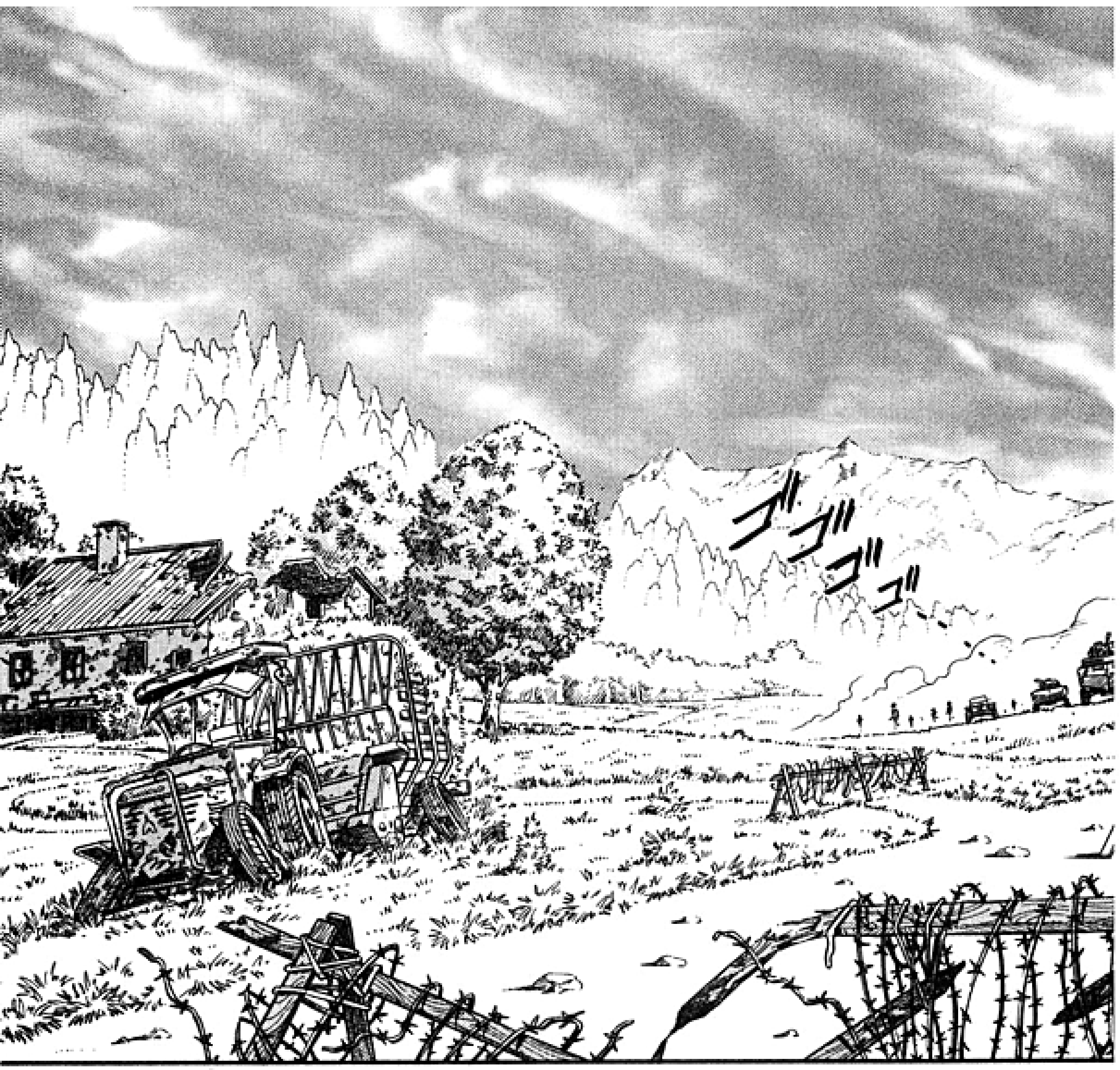

WAHH!!
SONOFABITCH!! WHAT THE HELL IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!


COMMANDER!!
IT'S OPEN.
THIS RIGHT HERE!
!!
TH-THAT'S ...


NO VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN!!
IF THIS BRIEFCASE IS WHAT YOU'RE AFTER,
TAKE IT AND BEGONE WITH YOU!!
COL-LEEN
RIGHT

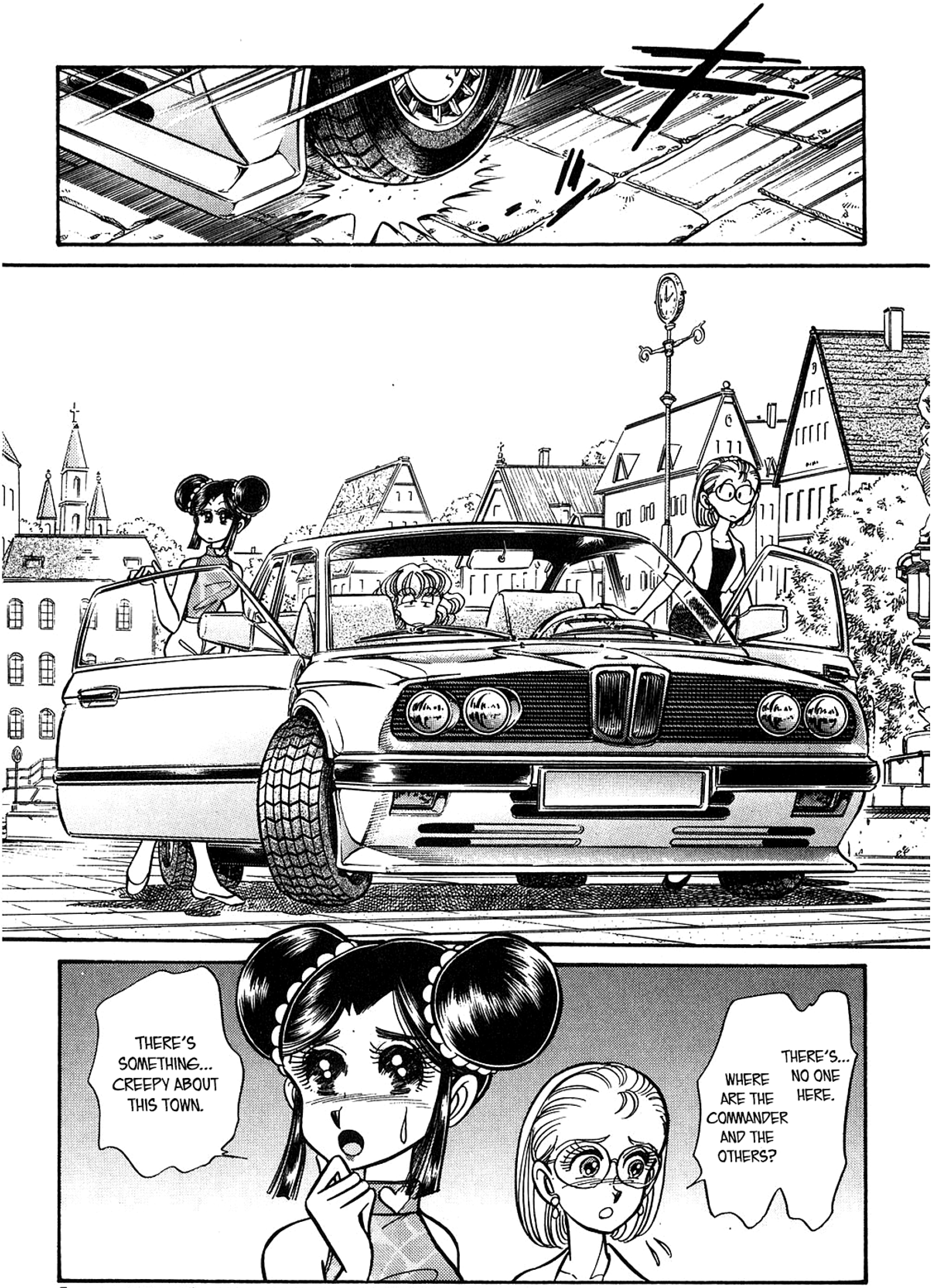

THEY'RE ALL BLANK...
SO THEY AREN'T IMPORTANT AT ALL...
THE DOCUMENTS IN THIS CASE ARE COMPLETELY UNIMPORTANT.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT THE CASE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT SIDE.
AND ALSO THAT MEMBERS OF A CIVILIAN ORGANIZATION SUCH AS WE ARE CAME TO STEAL IT.
!
?


ズズズ
COMMANDER!! LARGE NUMBERS OF GOVERNMENT TANKS ARE APPROACHING FROM THE EAST!!
!!

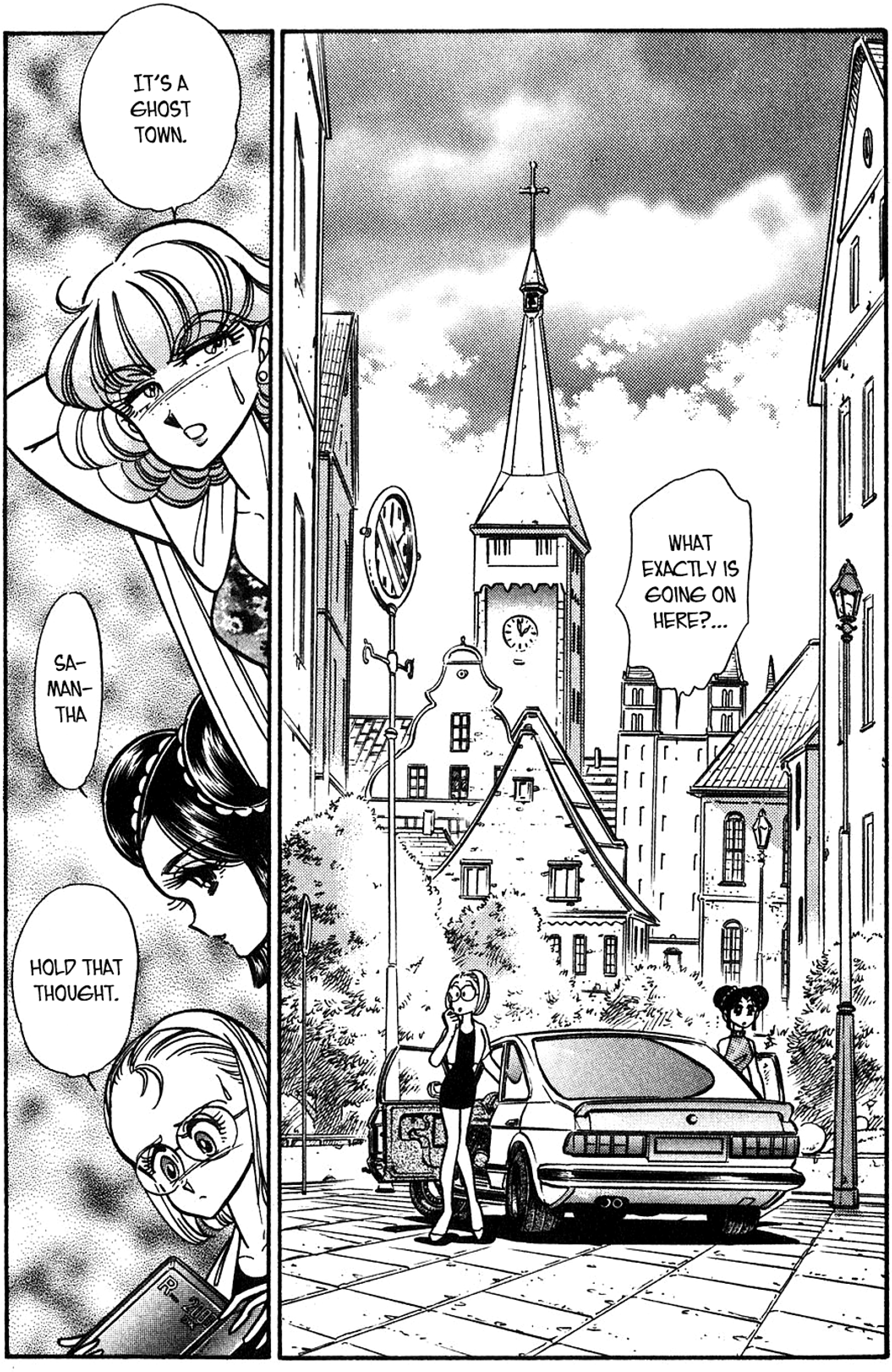

ゴゴゴゴ
SO THEY'RE FINALLY HERE.
MARIE

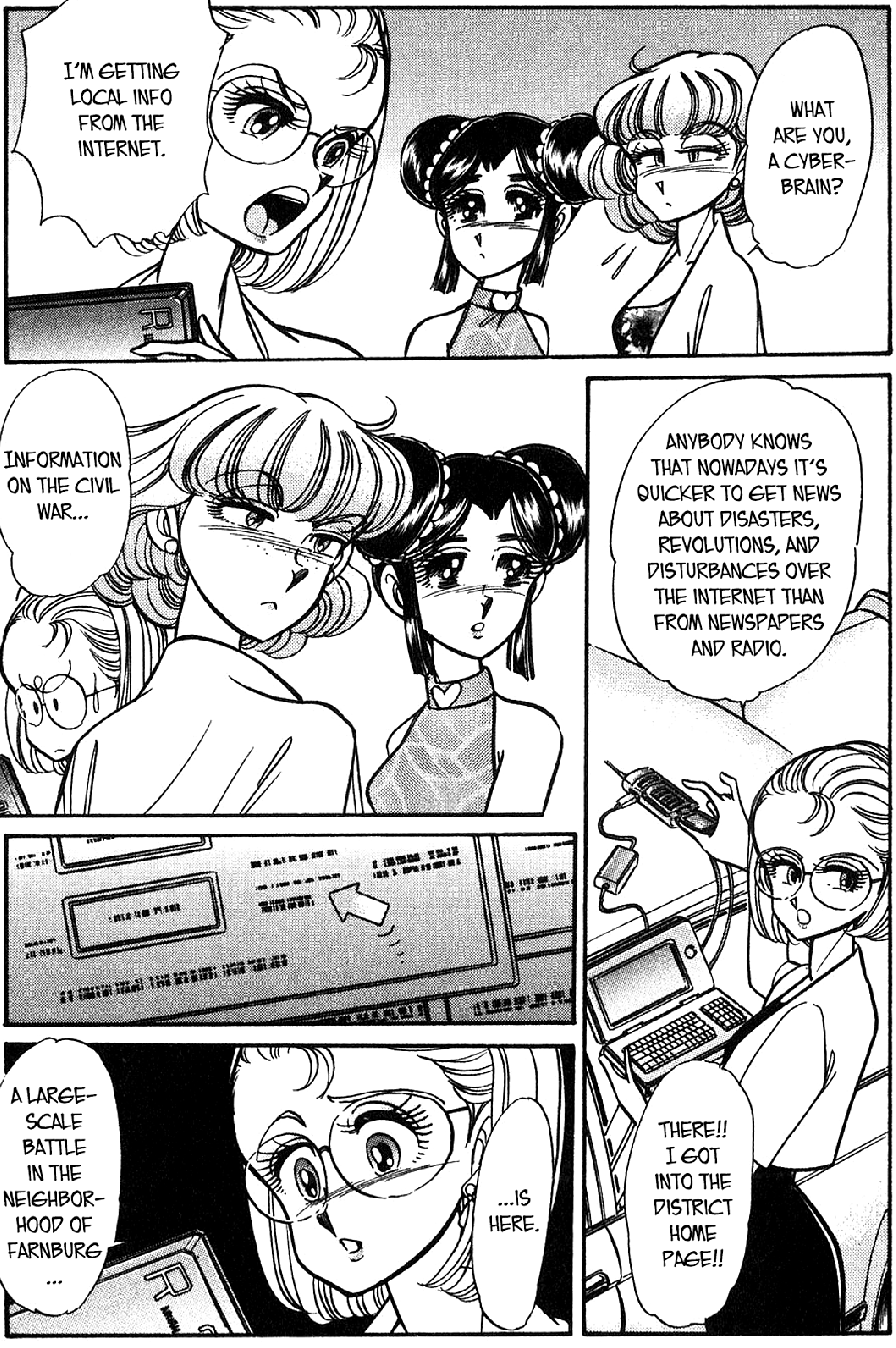
砂の薔薇
デザートローズ
HUDSON AK-47

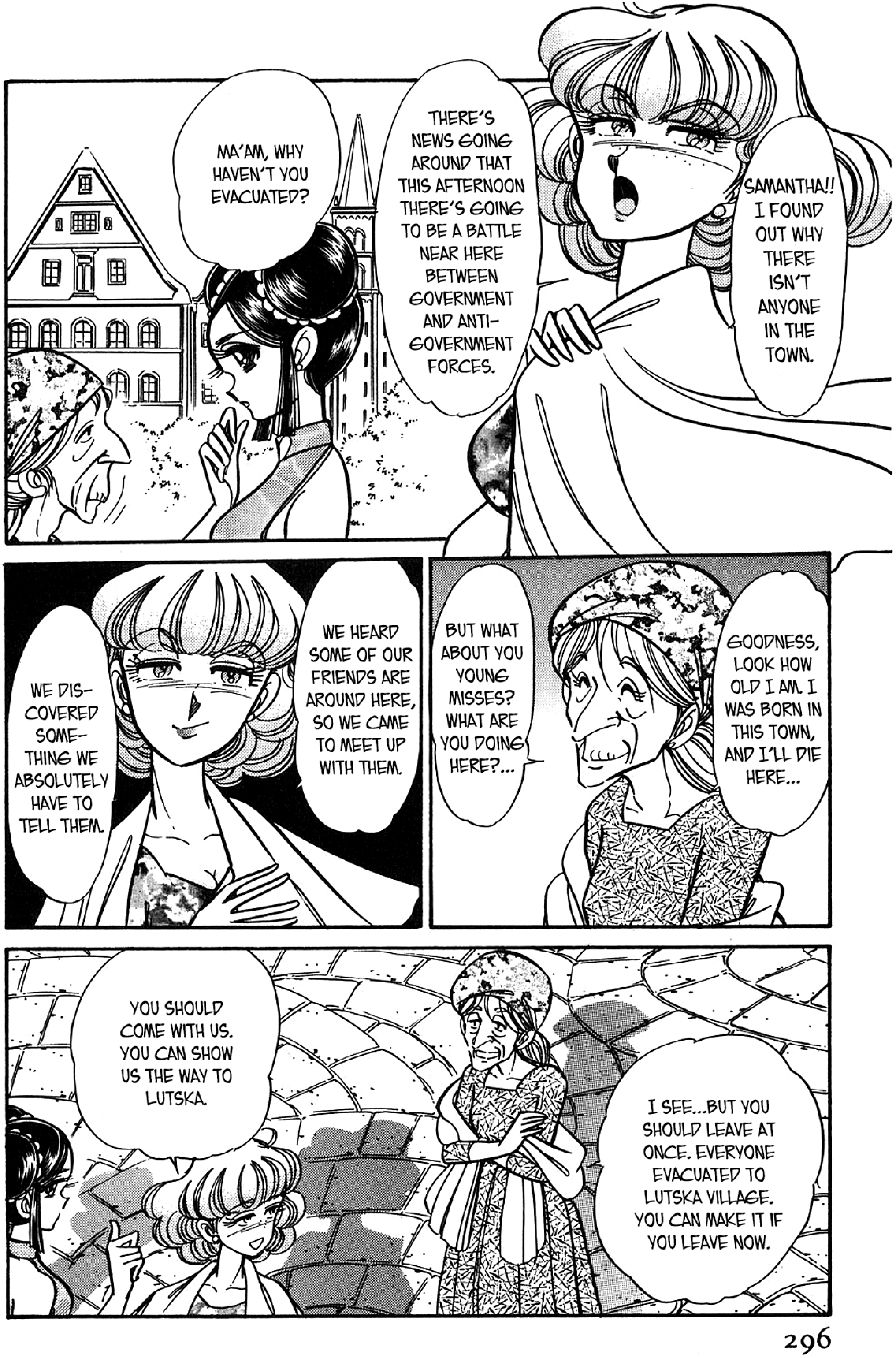
File 25: Double Spade (9)

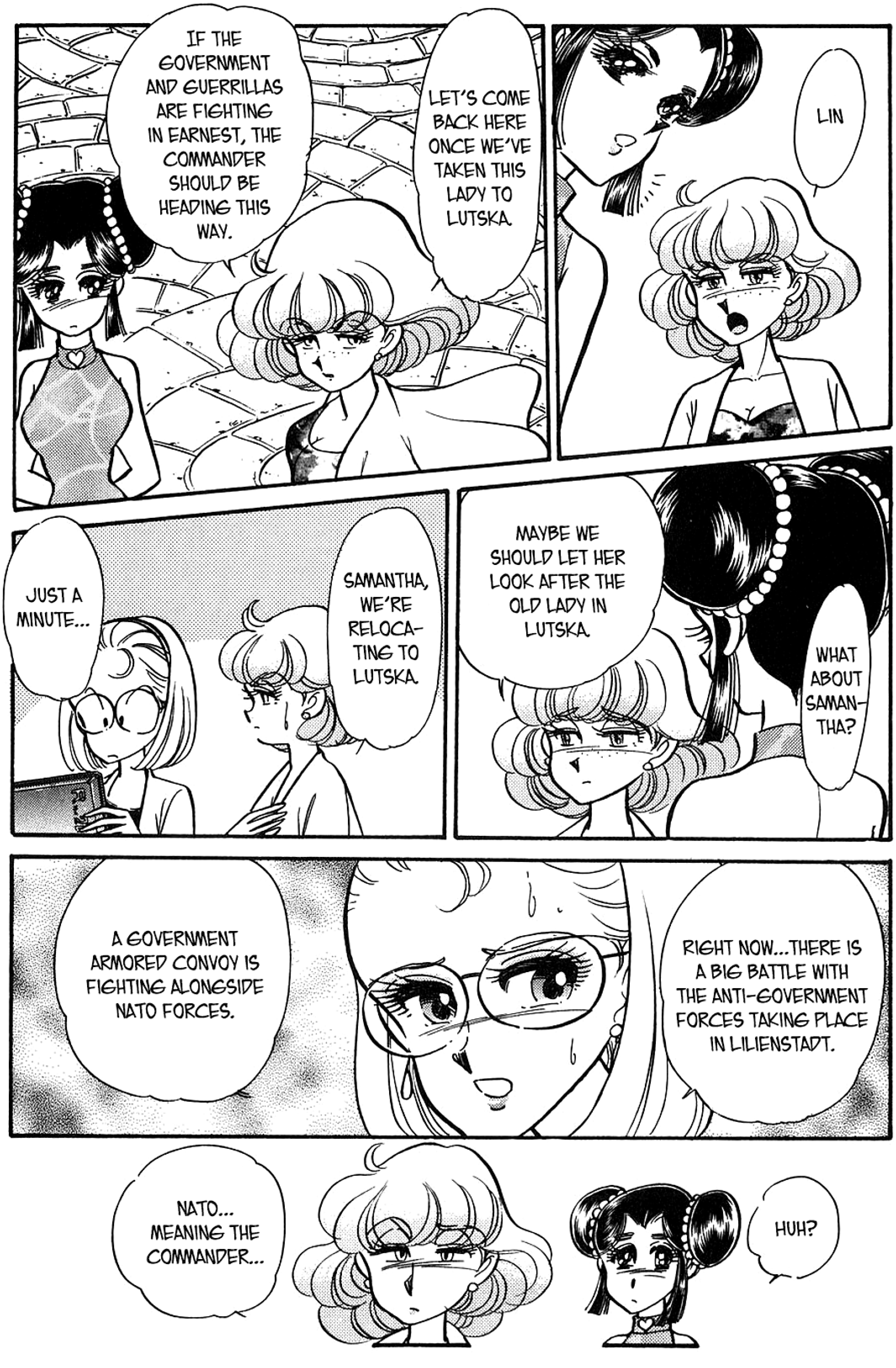

THERE'S... NO ONE HERE.
WHERE ARE THE COMMANDER AND THE OTHERS?
THERE'S SOMETHING... CREEPY ABOUT THIS TOWN.

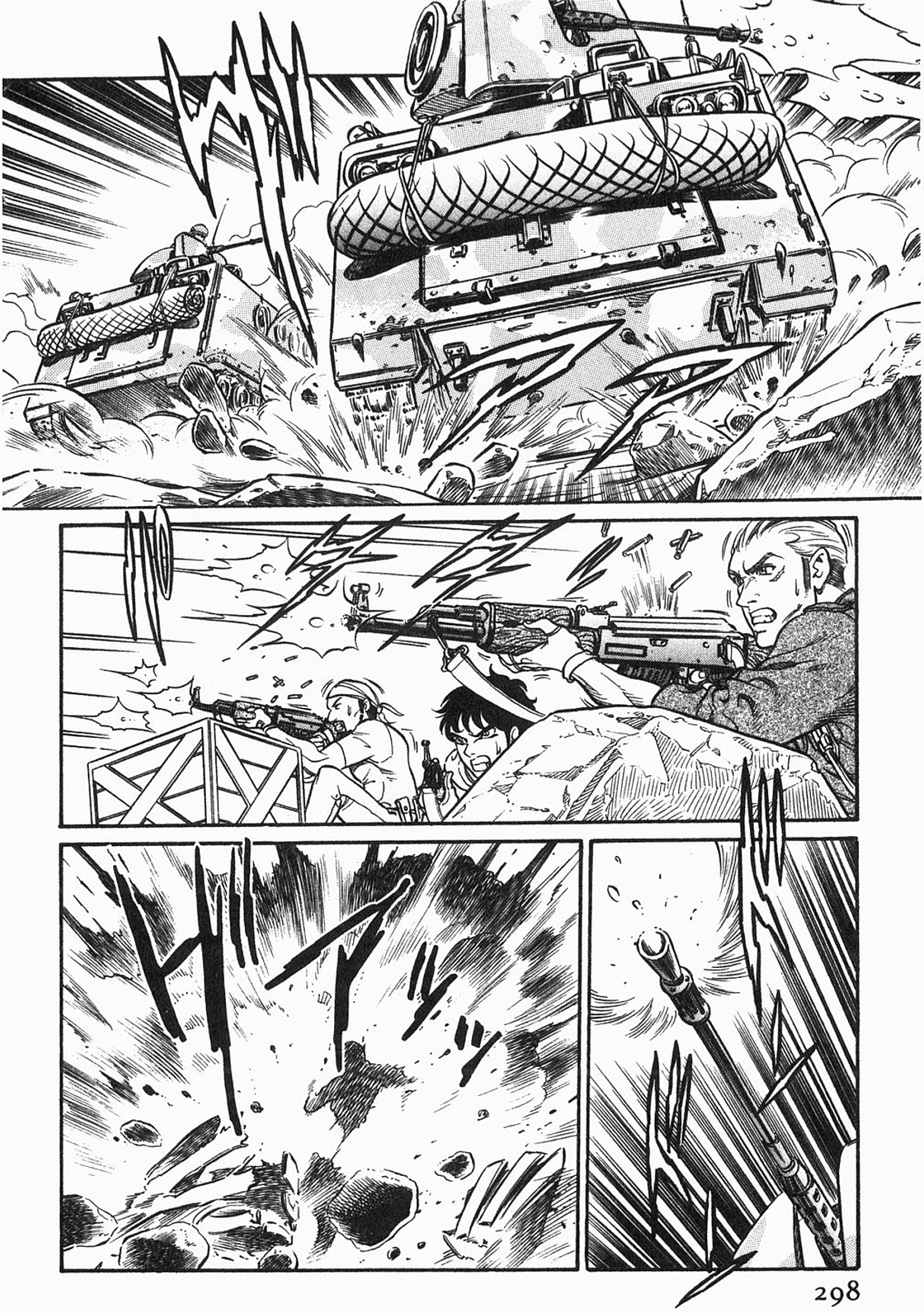
［File25：ダブル・スペード（8）　おわり］


WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON HERE?...
IT'S A GHOST TOWN.
SA-MAN-THA
HOLD THAT THOUGHT.
R-200


WHAT ARE YOU, A CYBER-BRAIN?
I'M GETTING LOCAL INFO FROM THE INTERNET.
ANYBODY KNOWS THAT NOWADAYS IT'S QUICKER TO GET NEWS ABOUT DISASTERS, REVOLUTIONS, AND DISTURBANCES OVER THE INTERNET THAN FROM NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO.
THERE!! I GOT INTO THE DISTRICT HOME PAGE!!
INFORMATION ON THE CIVIL WAR...
...IS HERE.
A LARGE-SCALE BATTLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF FARNBURG...


SAMANTHA!! I FOUND OUT WHY THERE ISN'T ANYONE IN THE TOWN.
THERE'S NEWS GOING AROUND THAT THIS AFTERNOON THERE'S GOING TO BE A BATTLE NEAR HERE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES.
MA'AM, WHY HAVEN'T YOU EVACUATED?
GOODNESS, LOOK HOW OLD I AM. I WAS BORN IN THIS TOWN, AND I'LL DIE HERE...
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU YOUNG MISSES? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?...
WE HEARD SOME OF OUR FRIENDS ARE AROUND HERE, SO WE CAME TO MEET UP WITH THEM.
WE DISCOVERED SOMETHING WE ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO TELL THEM.
I SEE...BUT YOU SHOULD LEAVE AT ONCE. EVERYONE EVACUATED TO LUTSKA VILLAGE. YOU CAN MAKE IT IF YOU LEAVE NOW.
YOU SHOULD COME WITH US. YOU CAN SHOW US THE WAY TO LUTSKA.


LIN
IF THE GOVERNMENT AND GUERRILLAS ARE FIGHTING IN EARNEST, THE COMMANDER SHOULD BE HEADING THIS WAY.
LET'S COME BACK HERE ONCE WE'VE TAKEN THIS LADY TO LUTSKA.
WHAT ABOUT SAMANTHA?
MAYBE WE SHOULD LET HER LOOK AFTER THE OLD LADY IN LUTSKA.
SAMANTHA, WE'RE RELOCATING TO LUTSKA.
JUST A MINUTE...
RIGHT NOW...THERE IS A BIG BATTLE WITH THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES TAKING PLACE IN LILIENSTADT.
A GOVERNMENT ARMORED CONVOY IS FIGHTING ALONGSIDE NATO FORCES.
NATO... MEANING THE COMMANDER...
HUH?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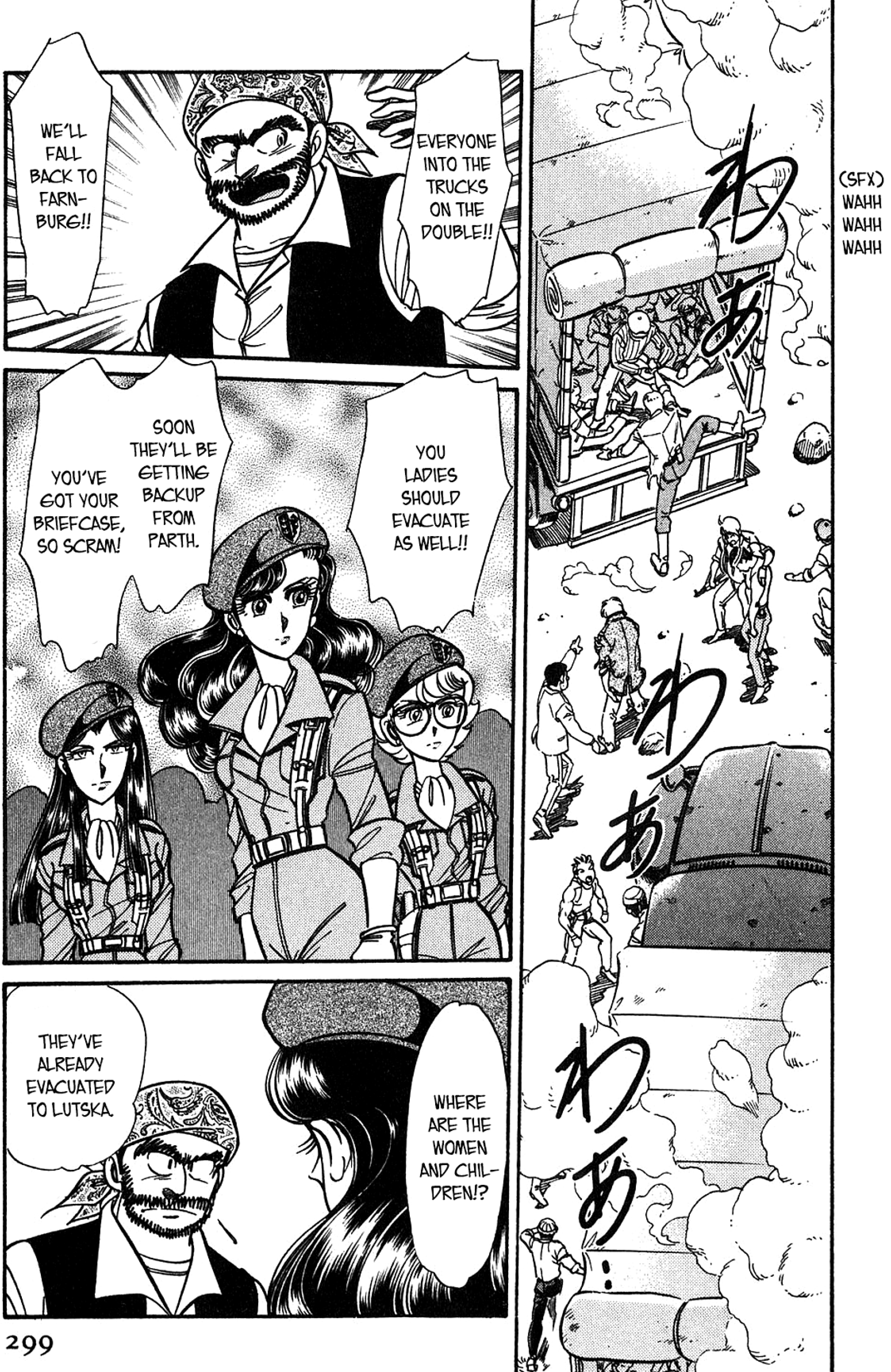
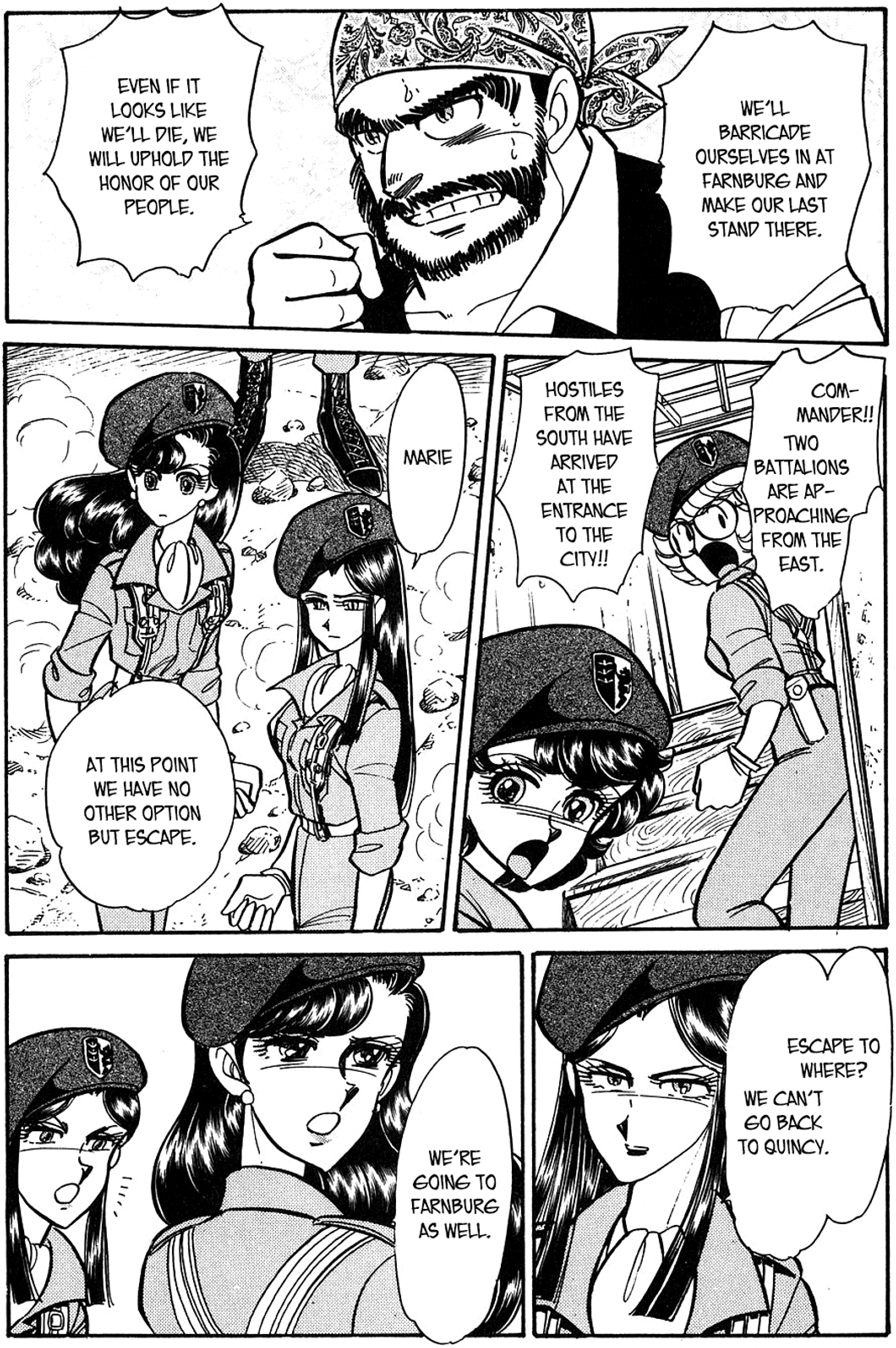
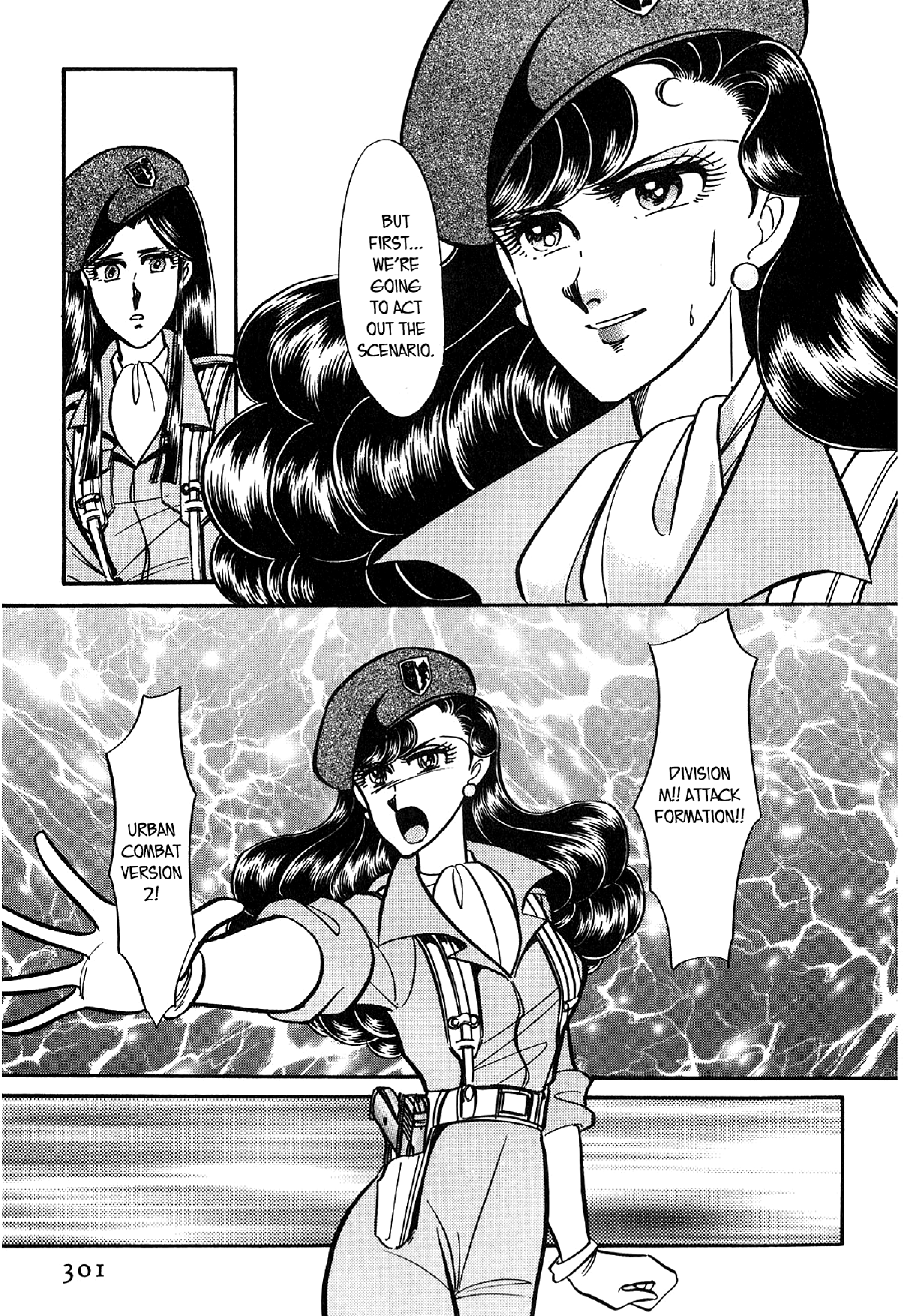
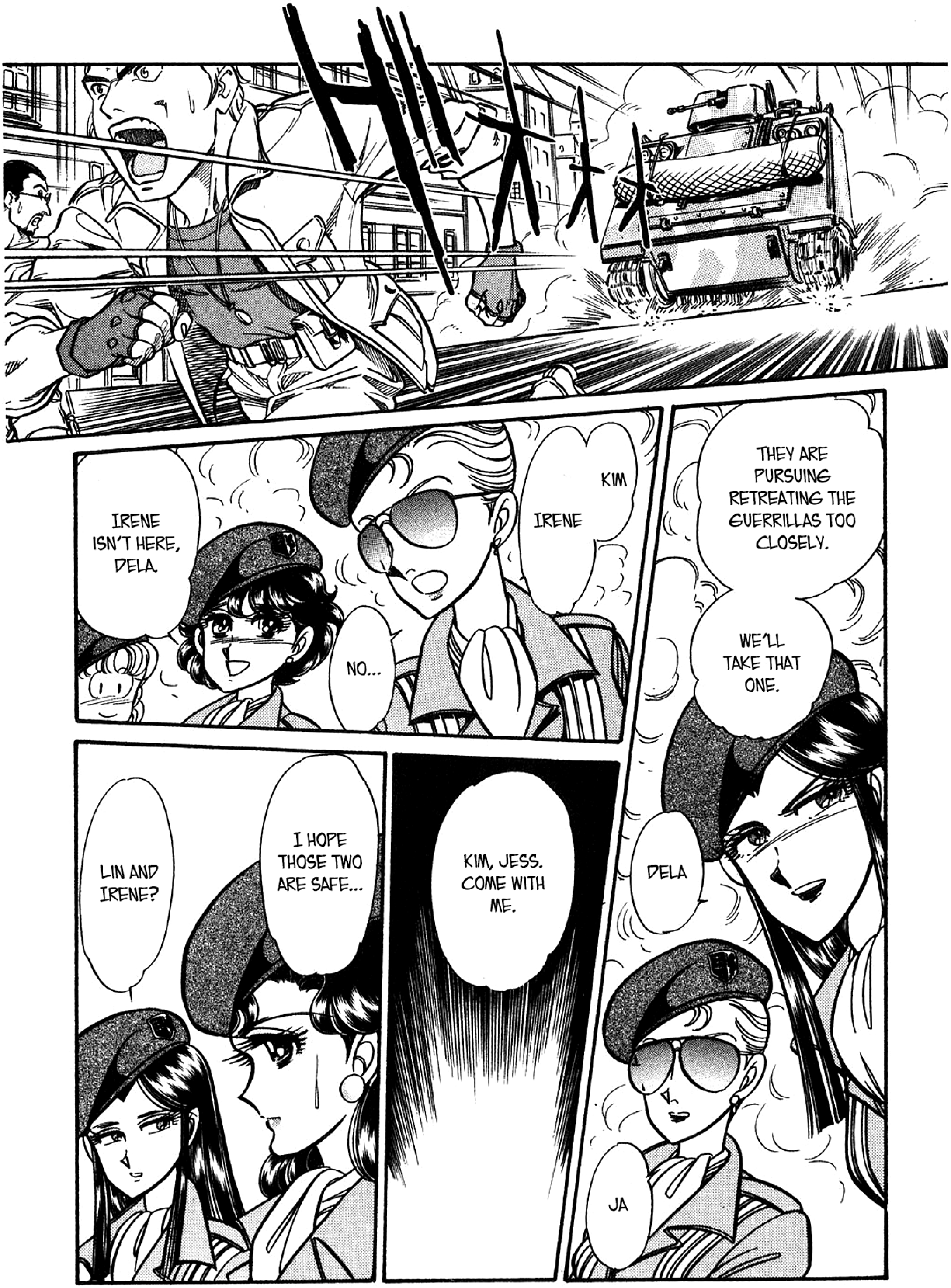
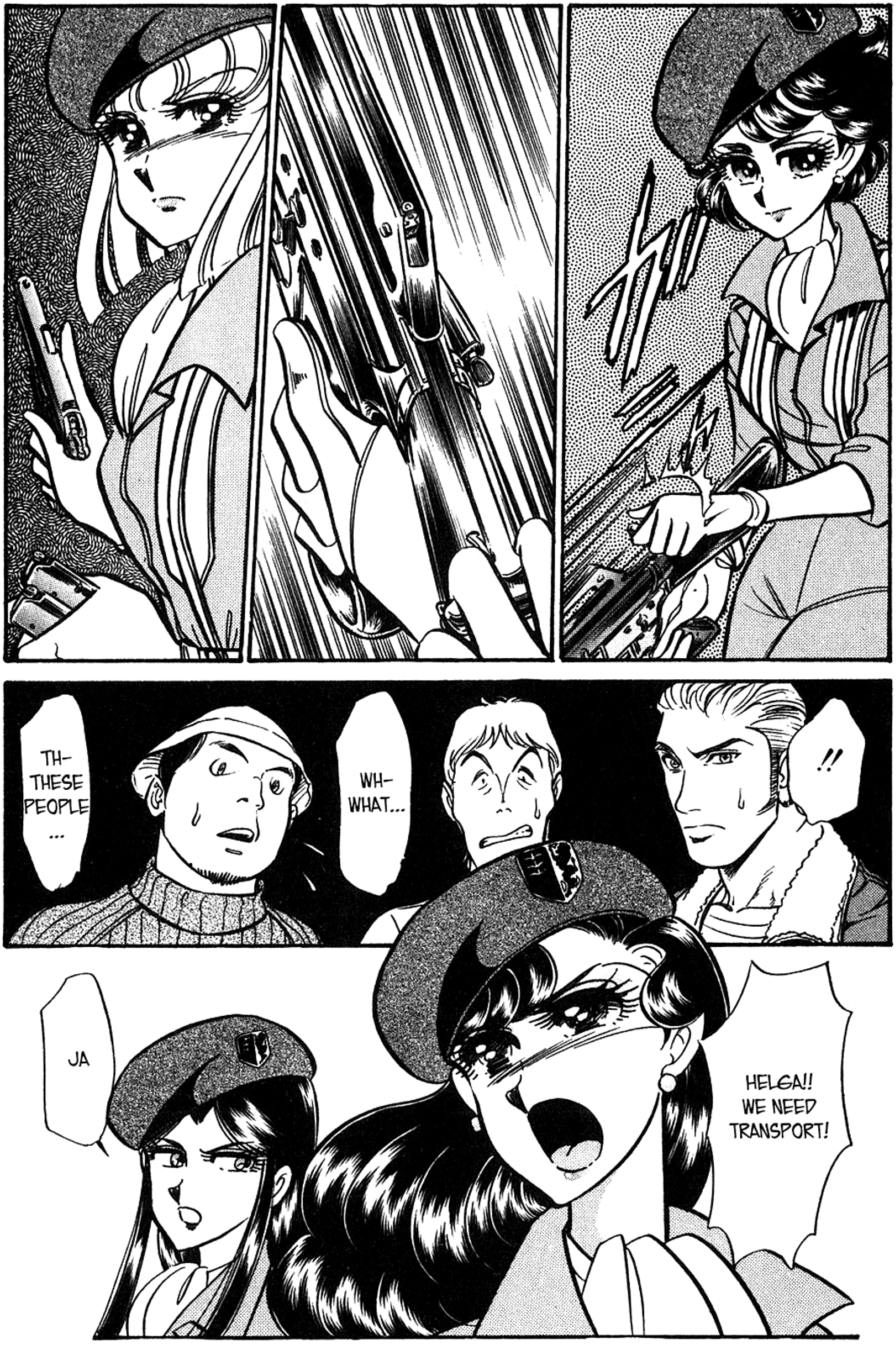
ドアッ

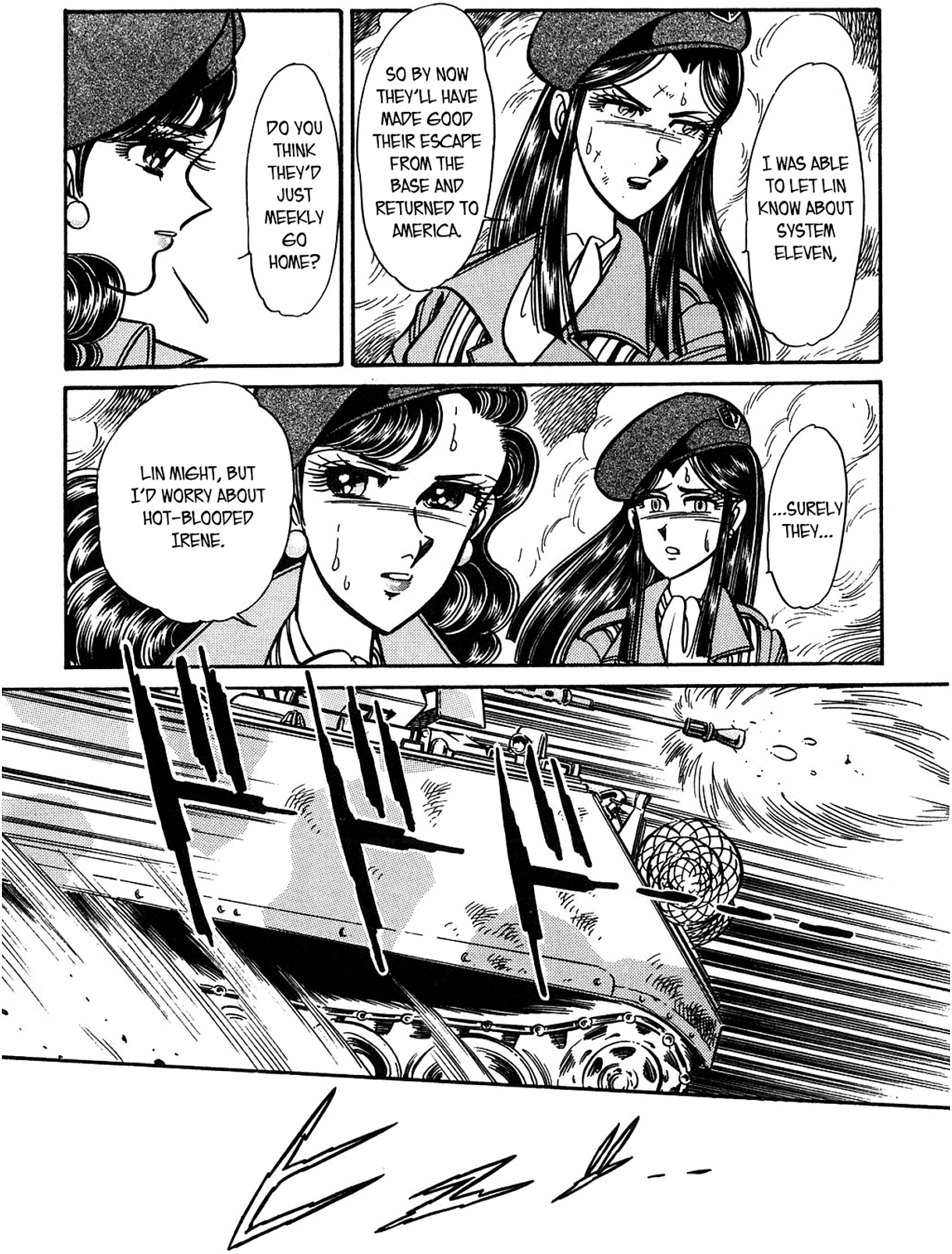

わあ
わあ
わあ…
(SFX) WAHH WAHH WAHH
EVERYONE INTO THE TRUCKS ON THE DOUBLE!!
WE'LL FALL BACK TO FARNBURG!!
YOU LADIES SHOULD EVACUATE AS WELL!!
SOON THEY'LL BE GETTING BACKUP FROM PARTH.
YOU'VE GOT YOUR BRIEFCASE, SO SCRAM!
WHERE ARE THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN!?
THEY'VE ALREADY EVACUATED TO LUTSKA.

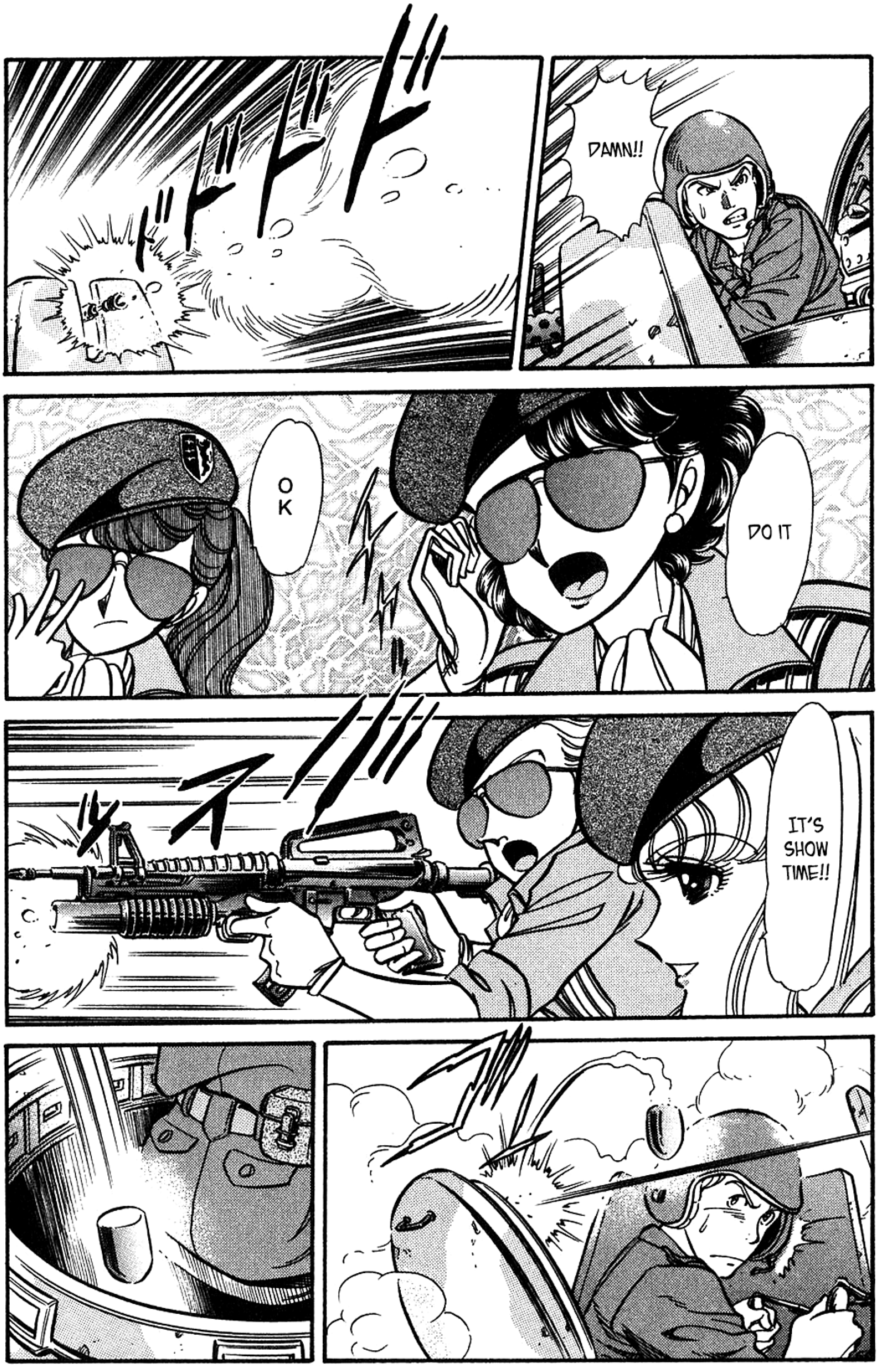

WE'LL BARRICADE OURSELVES IN AT FARNBURG AND MAKE OUR LAST STAND THERE.
EVEN IF IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL DIE, WE WILL UPHOLD THE HONOR OF OUR PEOPLE.
COMMANDER!! TWO BATTALIONS ARE APPROACHING FROM THE EAST.
HOSTILES FROM THE SOUTH HAVE ARRIVED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CITY!!
MARIE
AT THIS POINT WE HAVE NO OTHER OPTION BUT ESCAPE.
ESCAPE TO WHERE? WE CAN'T GO BACK TO QUINCY.
WE'RE GOING TO FARNBURG AS WELL.

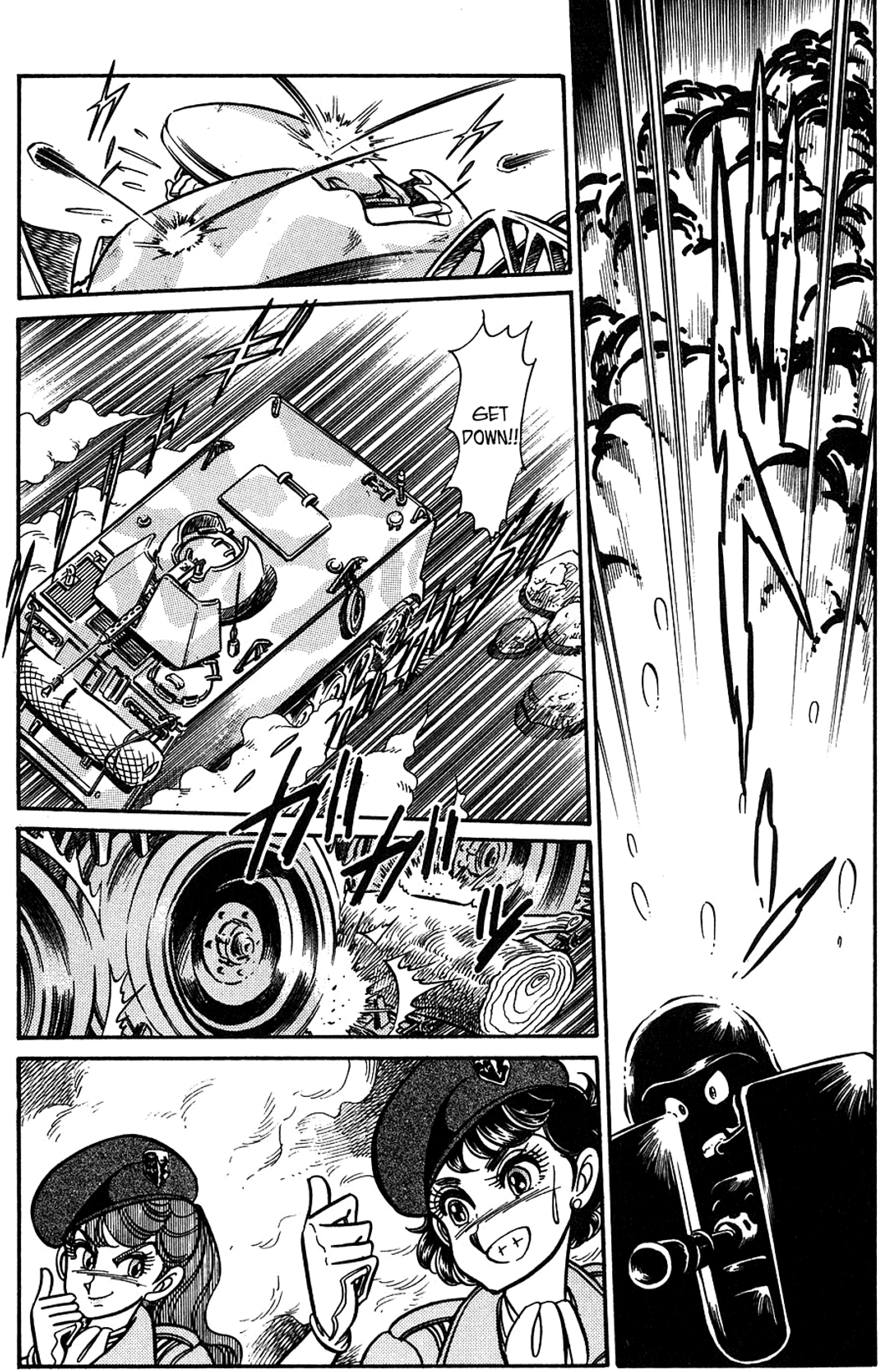

BUT FIRST... WE'RE GOING TO ACT OUT THE SCENARIO.
DIVISION M!! ATTACK FORMATION!!
URBAN COMBAT VERSION 2!

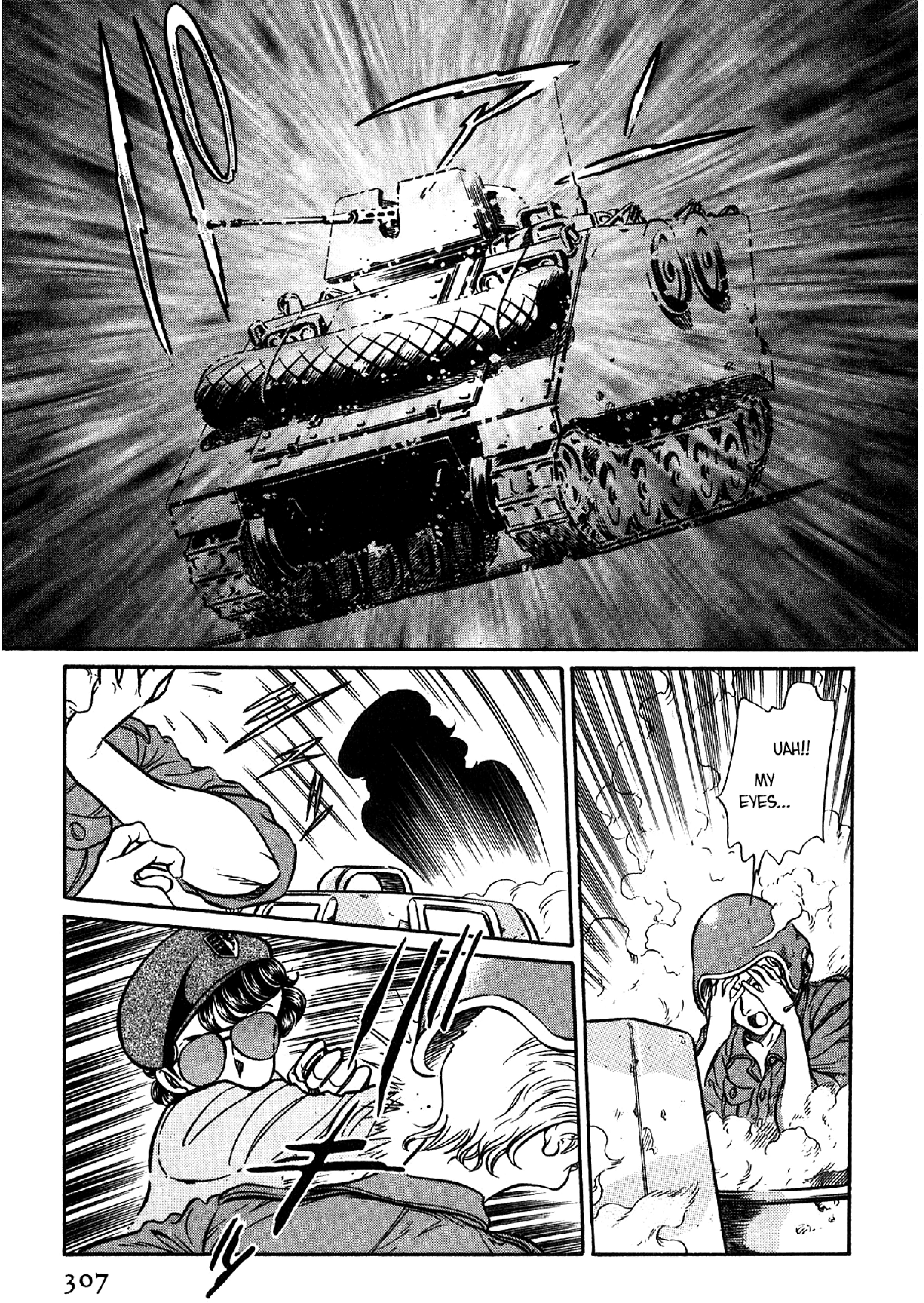

ドドドォォ
THEY ARE PURSUING RETREATING THE GUERRILLAS TOO CLOSELY.
WE'LL TAKE THAT ONE.
KIM
IRENE
NO...
IRENE ISN'T HERE, DELA.
DELA
JA
KIM, JESS. COME WITH ME.
I HOPE THOSE TWO ARE SAFE...
LIN AND IRENE?

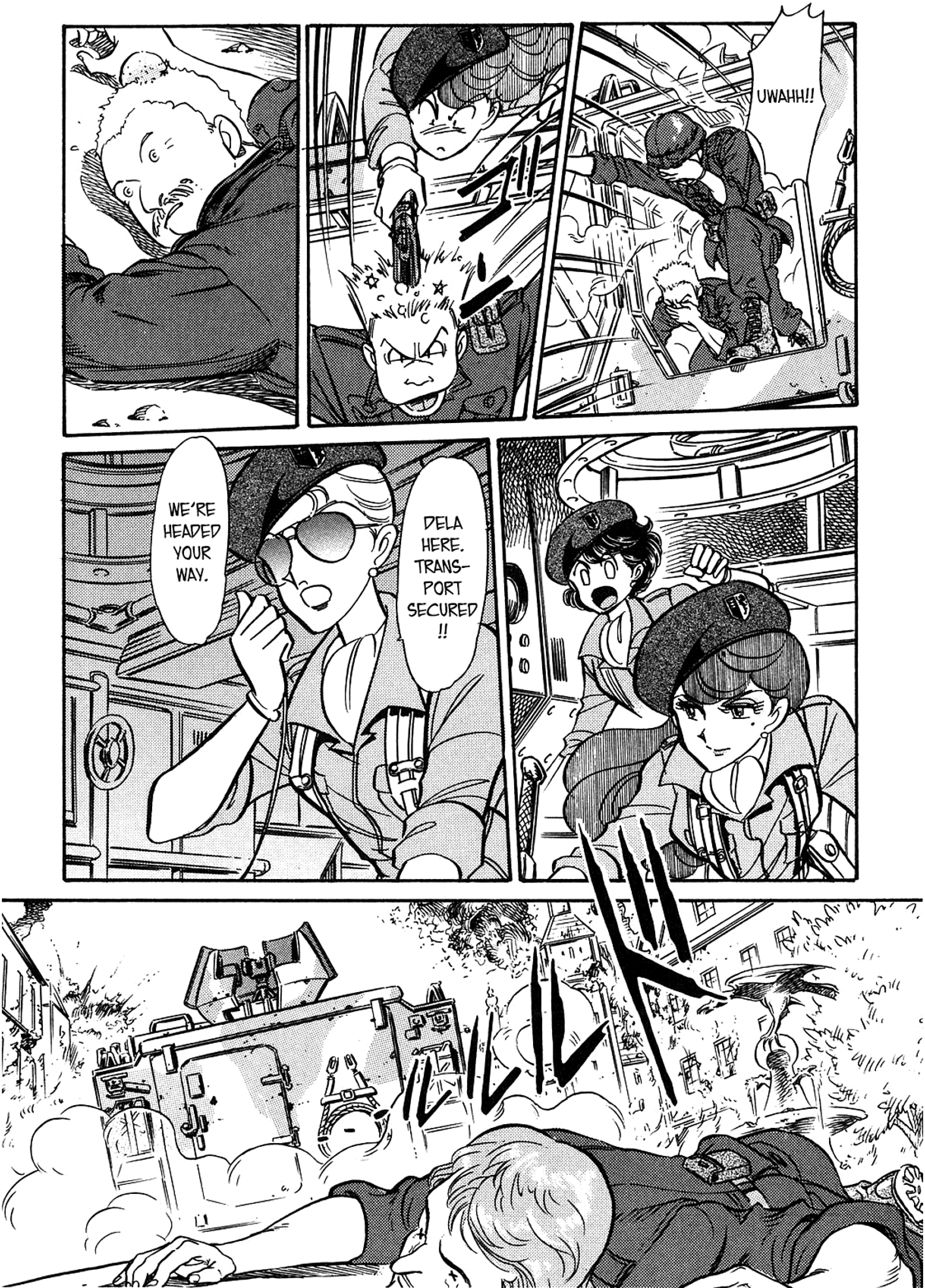

!!
WH-WHAT...
TH-THESE PEOPLE ...
HELGA!! WE NEED TRANSPORT!
JA

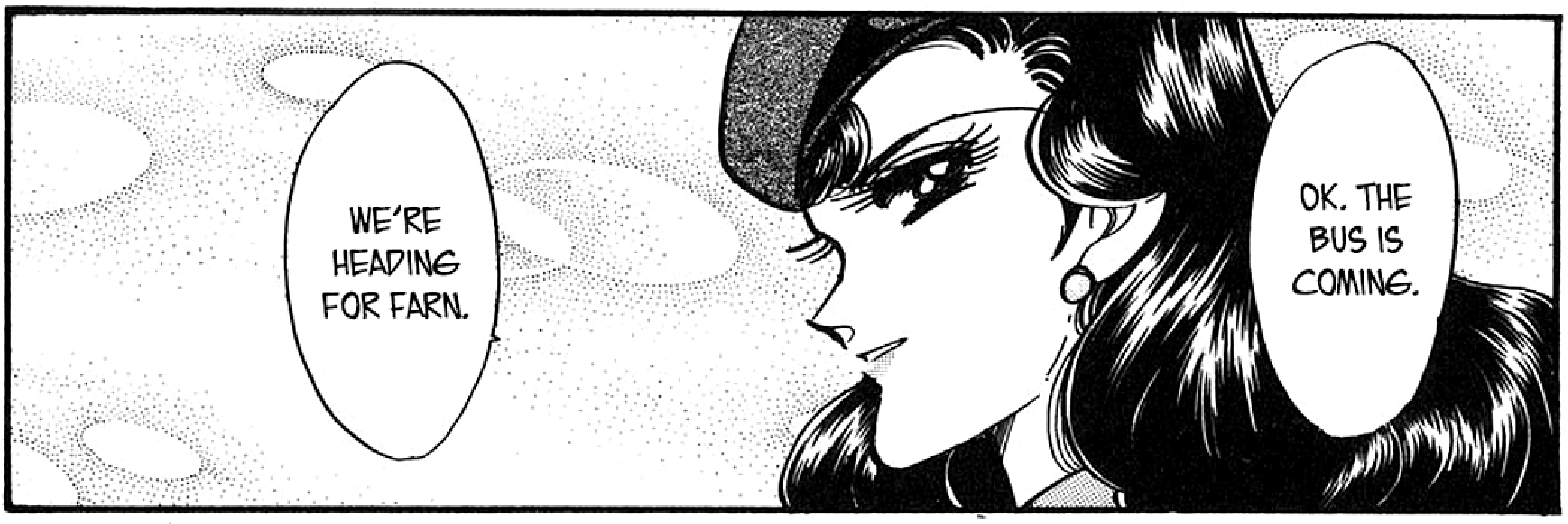

I WAS ABLE TO LET LIN KNOW ABOUT SYSTEM ELEVEN,
SO BY NOW THEY'LL HAVE MADE GOOD THEIR ESCAPE FROM THE BASE AND RETURNED TO AMERICA.
DO YOU THINK THEY'D JUST MEEKLY GO HOME?
...SURELY THEY...
LIN MIGHT, BUT I'D WORRY ABOUT HOT-BLOODED IRENE.
ドドド

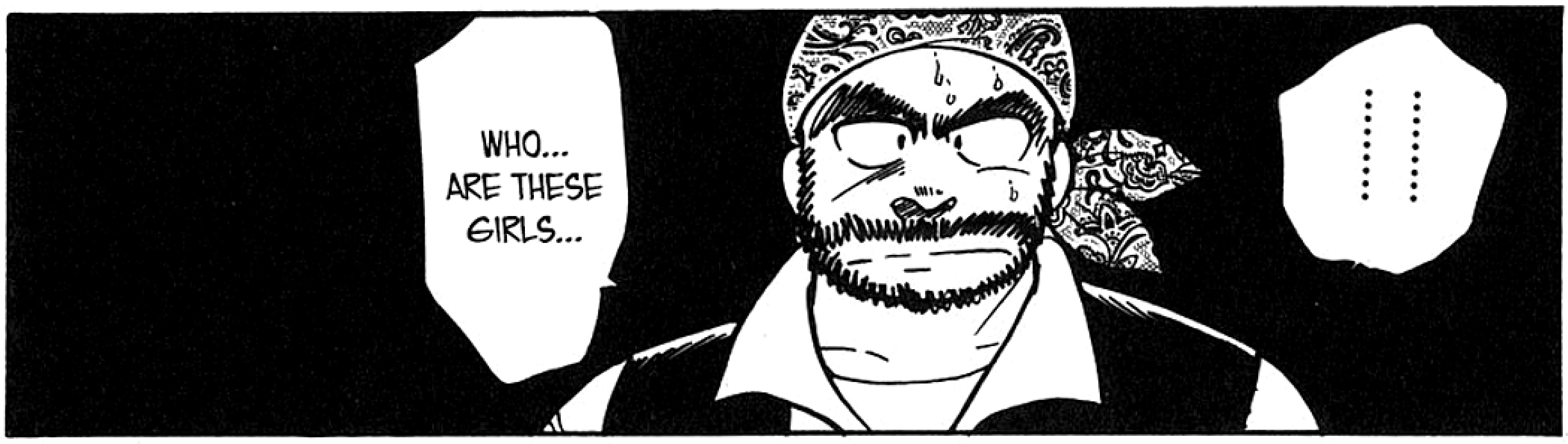

DAMN!!
ドドドドド
DO IT
OK
IT'S SHOW TIME!!

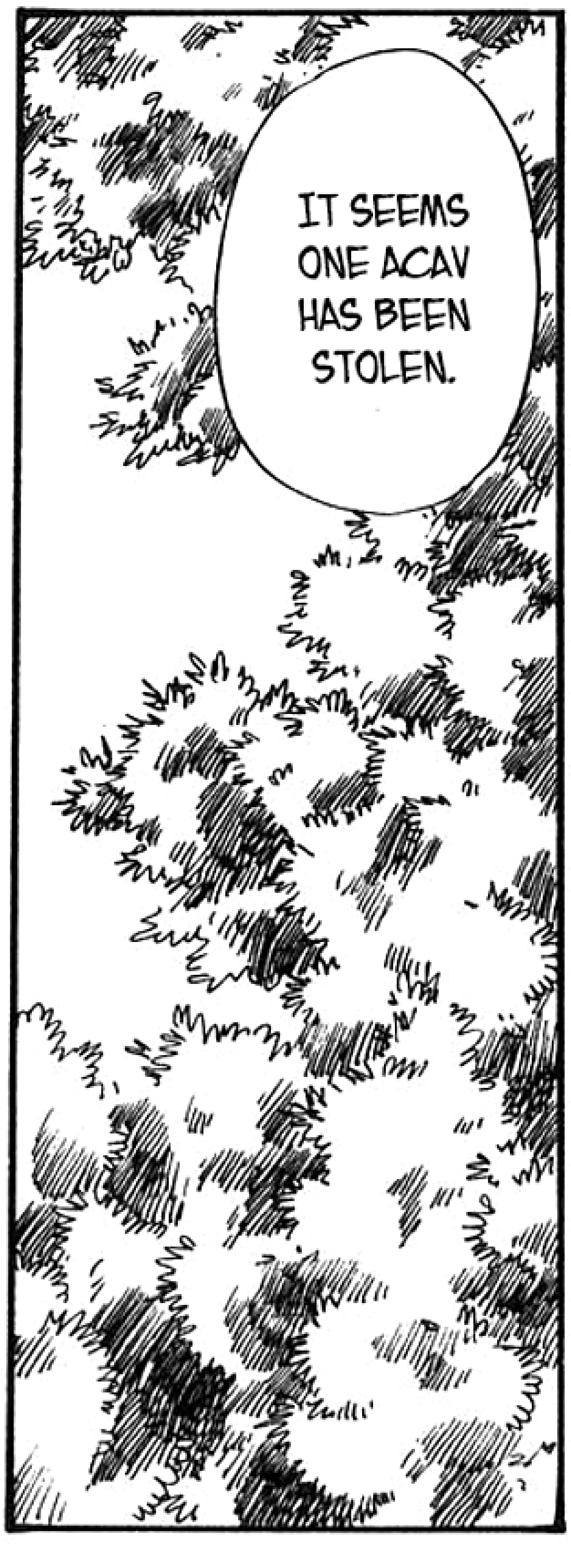

GET DOWN!!

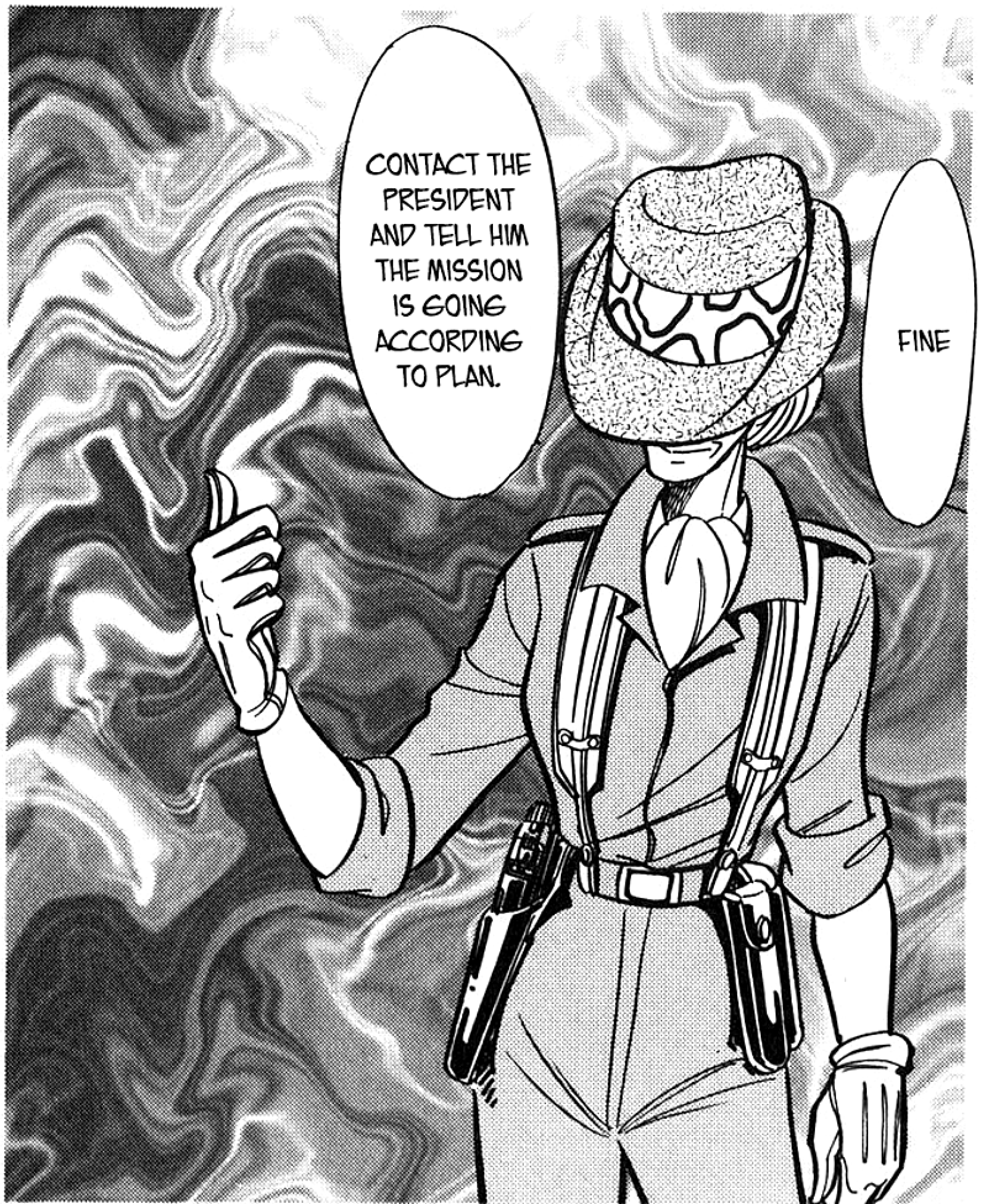

UAH!!
MY EYES...

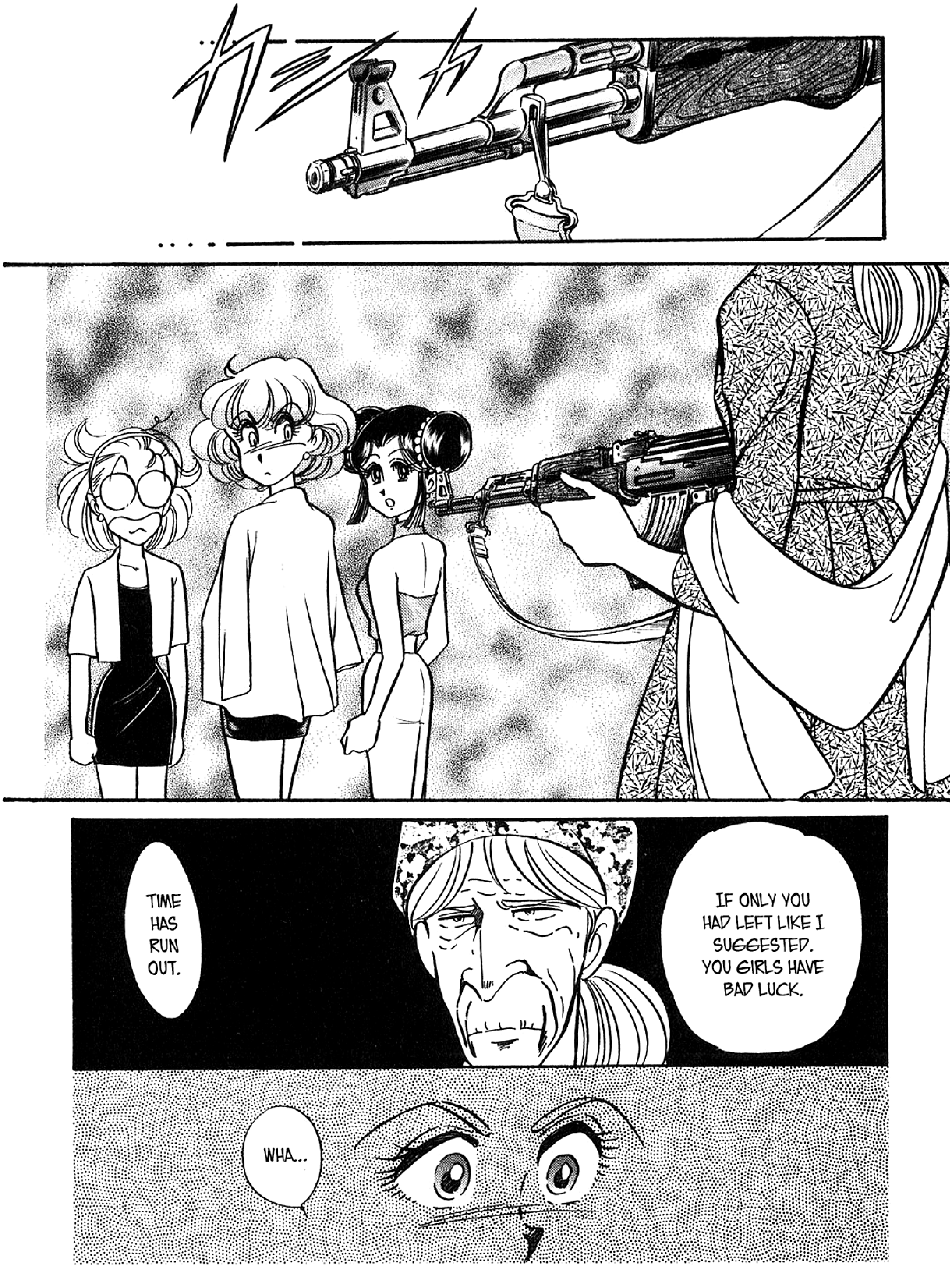

UWAHH!!
ゴッ
DELA HERE. TRANSPORT SECURED!!
WE'RE HEADED YOUR WAY.
ドルルルル

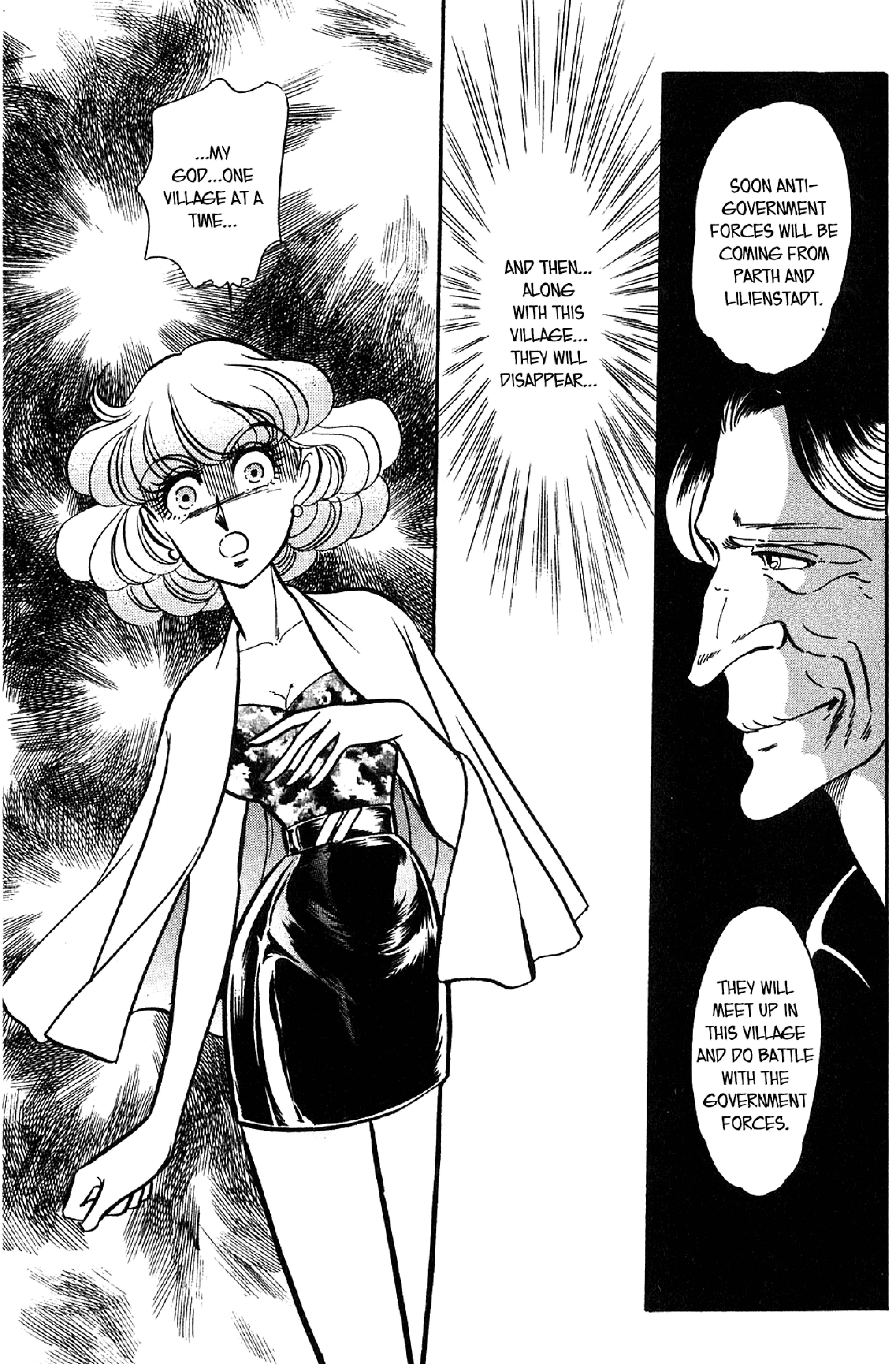

OK. THE BUS IS COMING.
WE'RE HEADING FOR FARN.

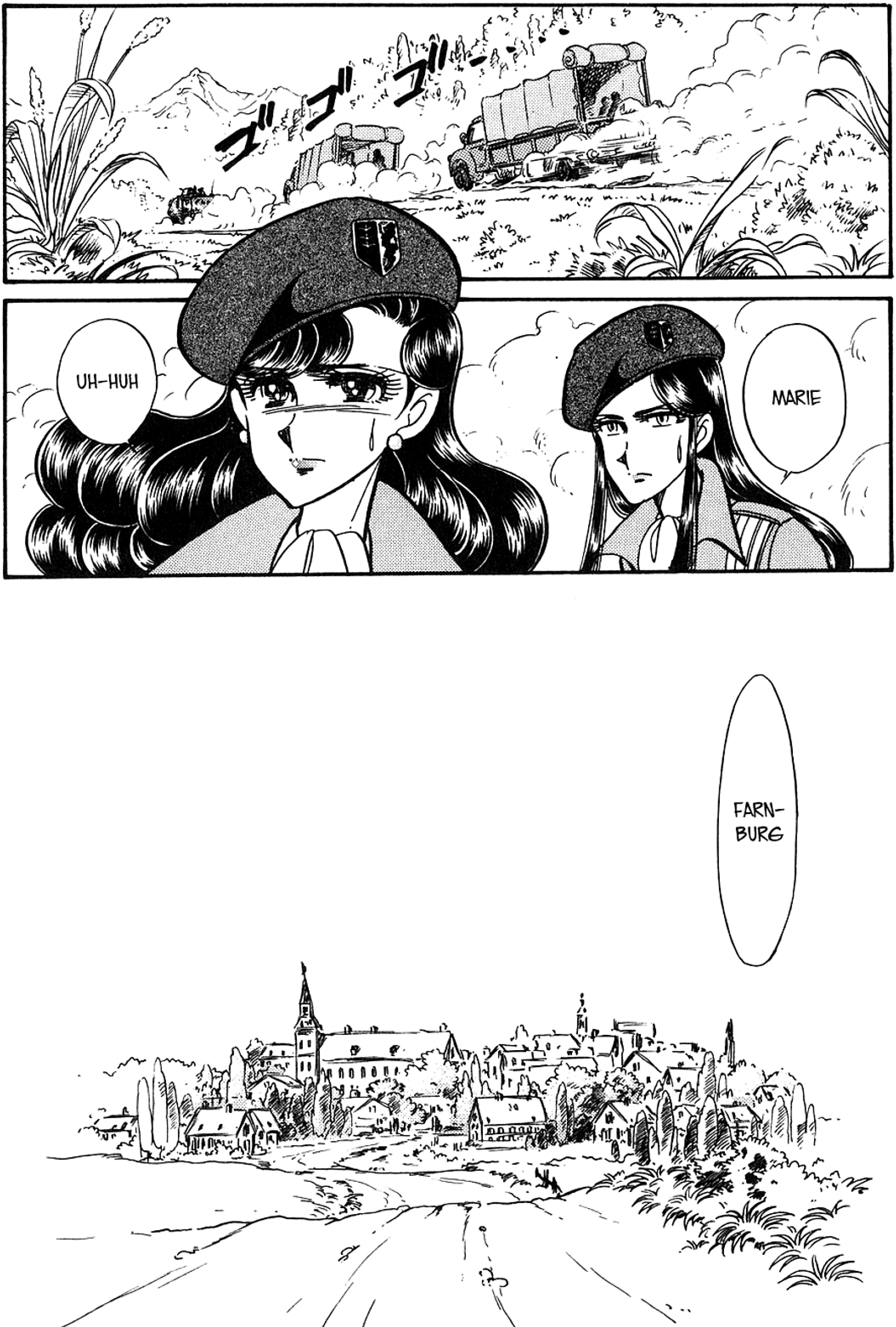

......
WHO... ARE THESE GIRLS...


IT SEEMS ONE ACAV HAS BEEN STOLEN.


FINE
CONTACT THE PRESIDENT AND TELL HIM THE MISSION IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN.


ガシャ
IF ONLY YOU HAD LEFT LIKE I SUGGESTED. YOU GIRLS HAVE BAD LUCK.
TIME HAS RUN OUT.
WHA...


SOON ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES WILL BE COMING FROM PARTH AND LILIENSTADT.
THEY WILL MEET UP IN THIS VILLAGE AND DO BATTLE WITH THE GOVERNMENT FORCES.
AND THEN... ALONG WITH THIS VILLAGE... THEY WILL DISAPPEAR...
...MY GOD...ONE VILLAGE AT A TIME...

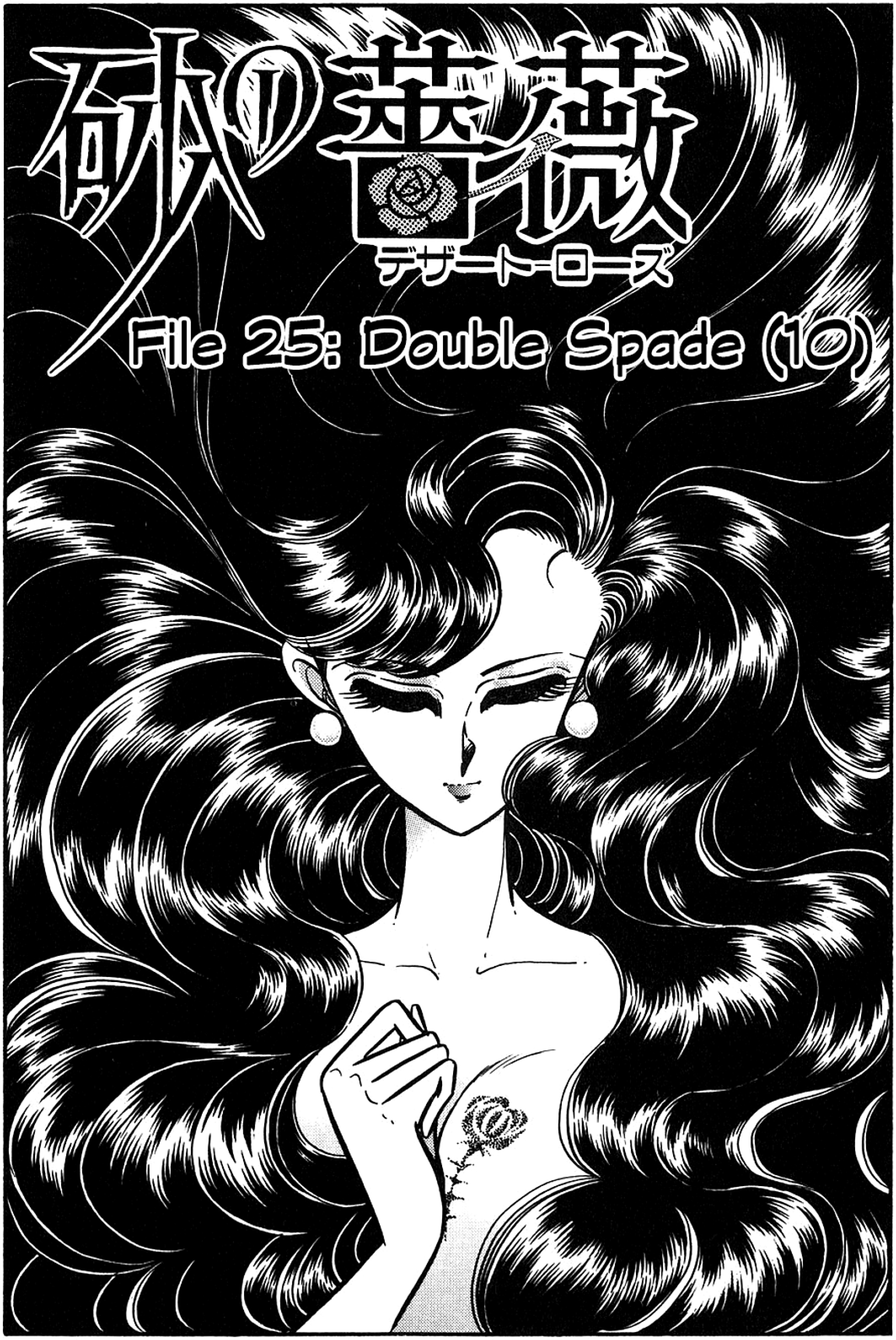

ゴゴゴー
MARIE
UH-HUH
FARNBURG

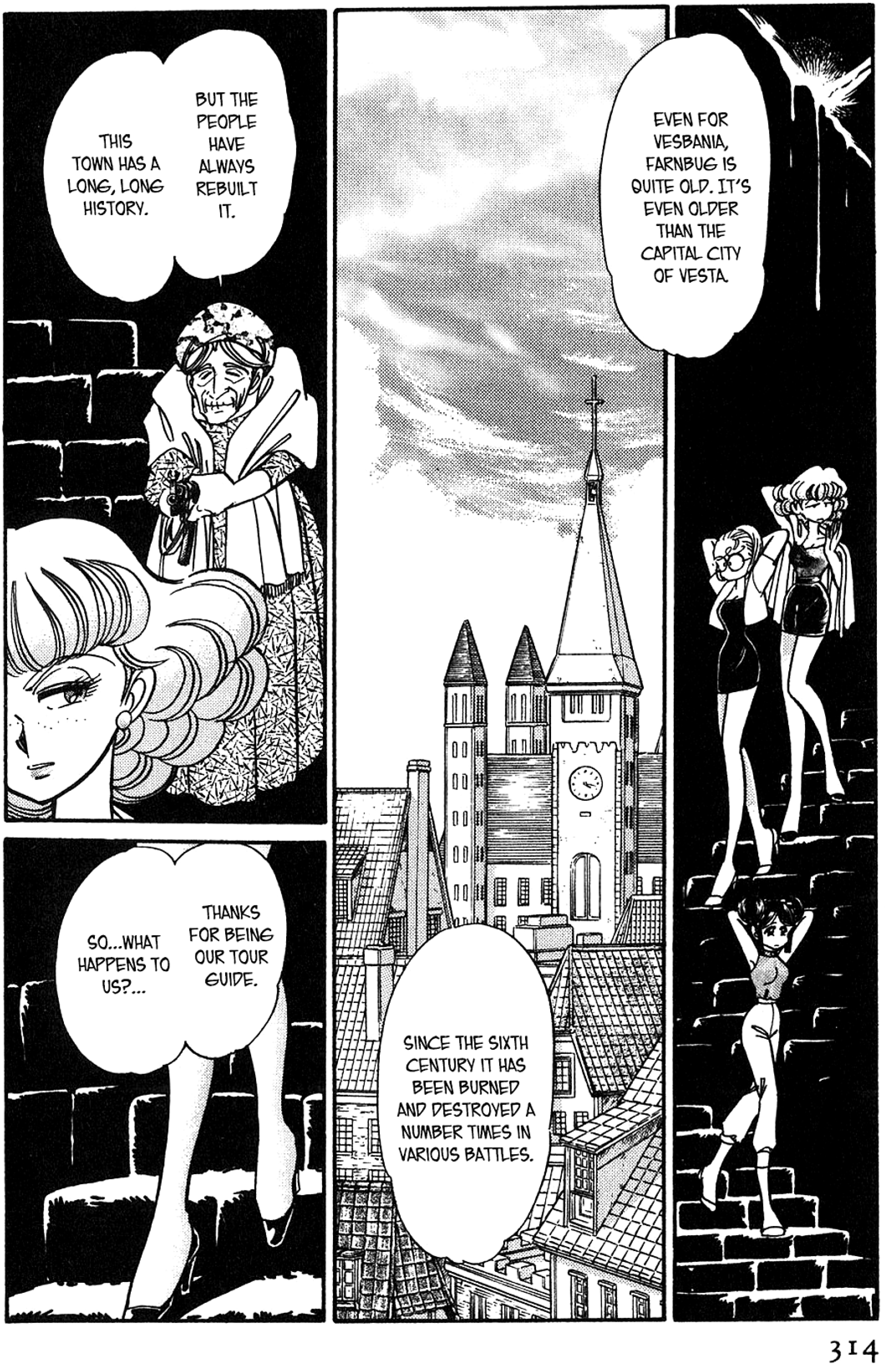
[File25: Double Spade (9) End]

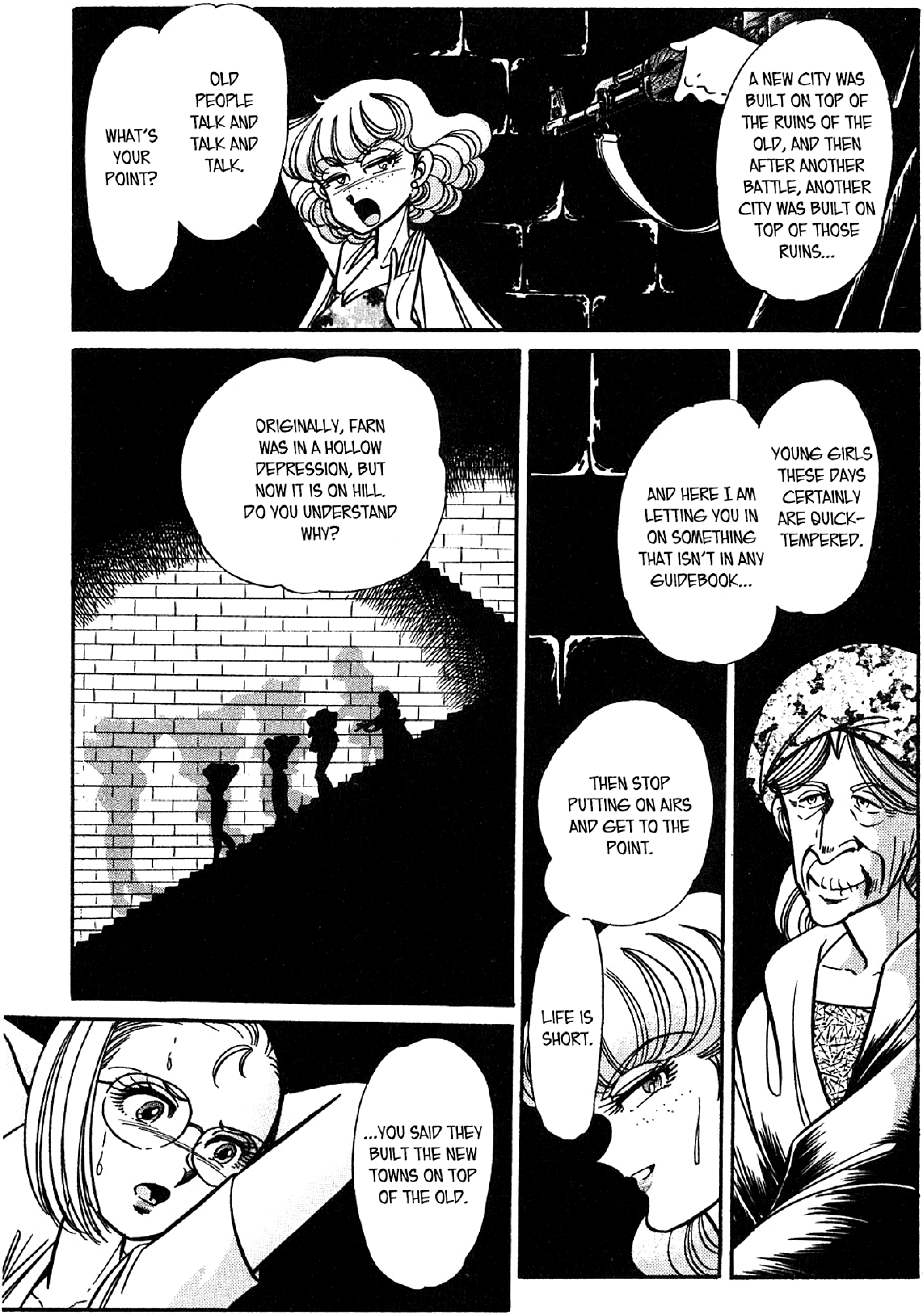
砂の薔薇

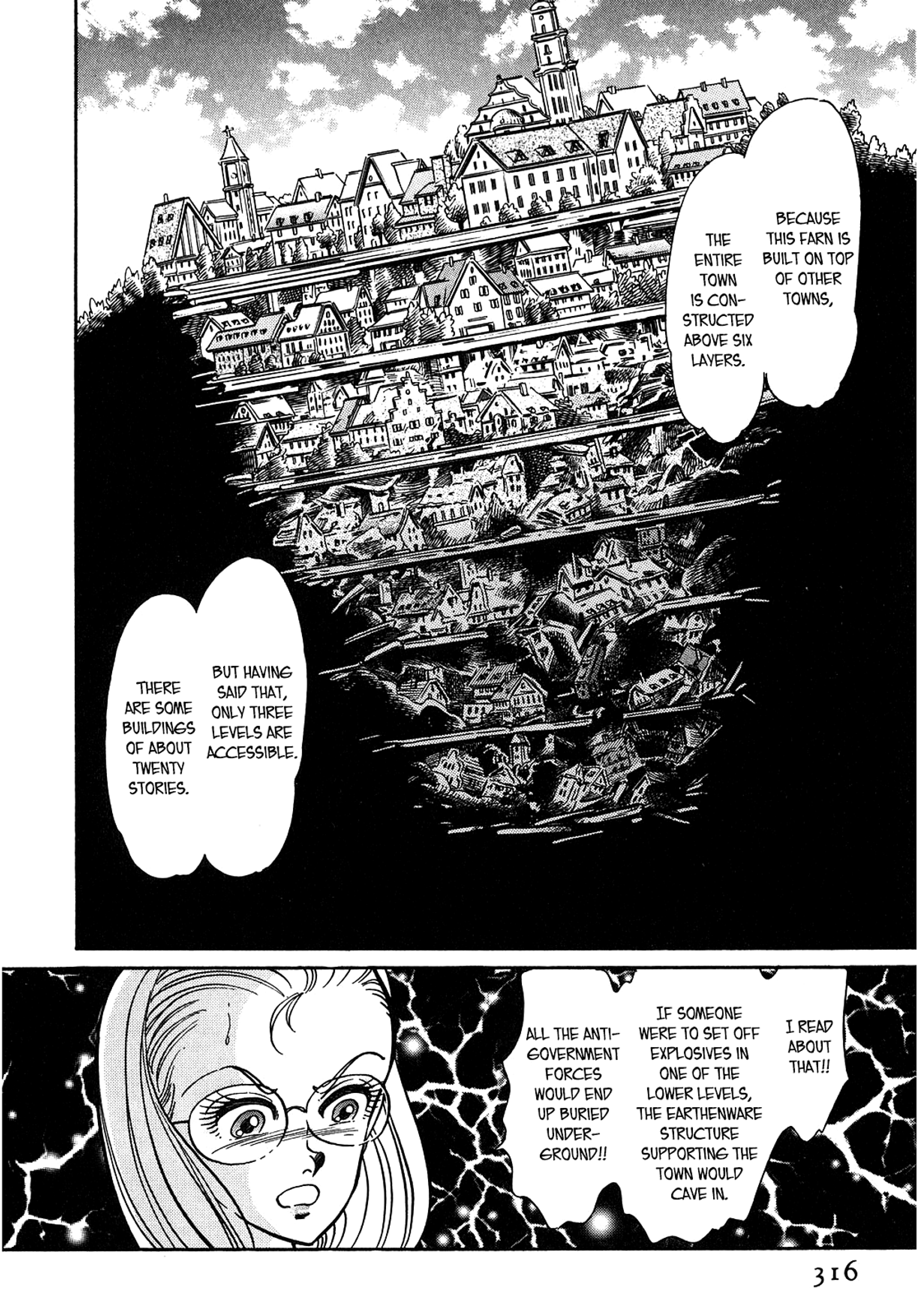
デザート・ローズ

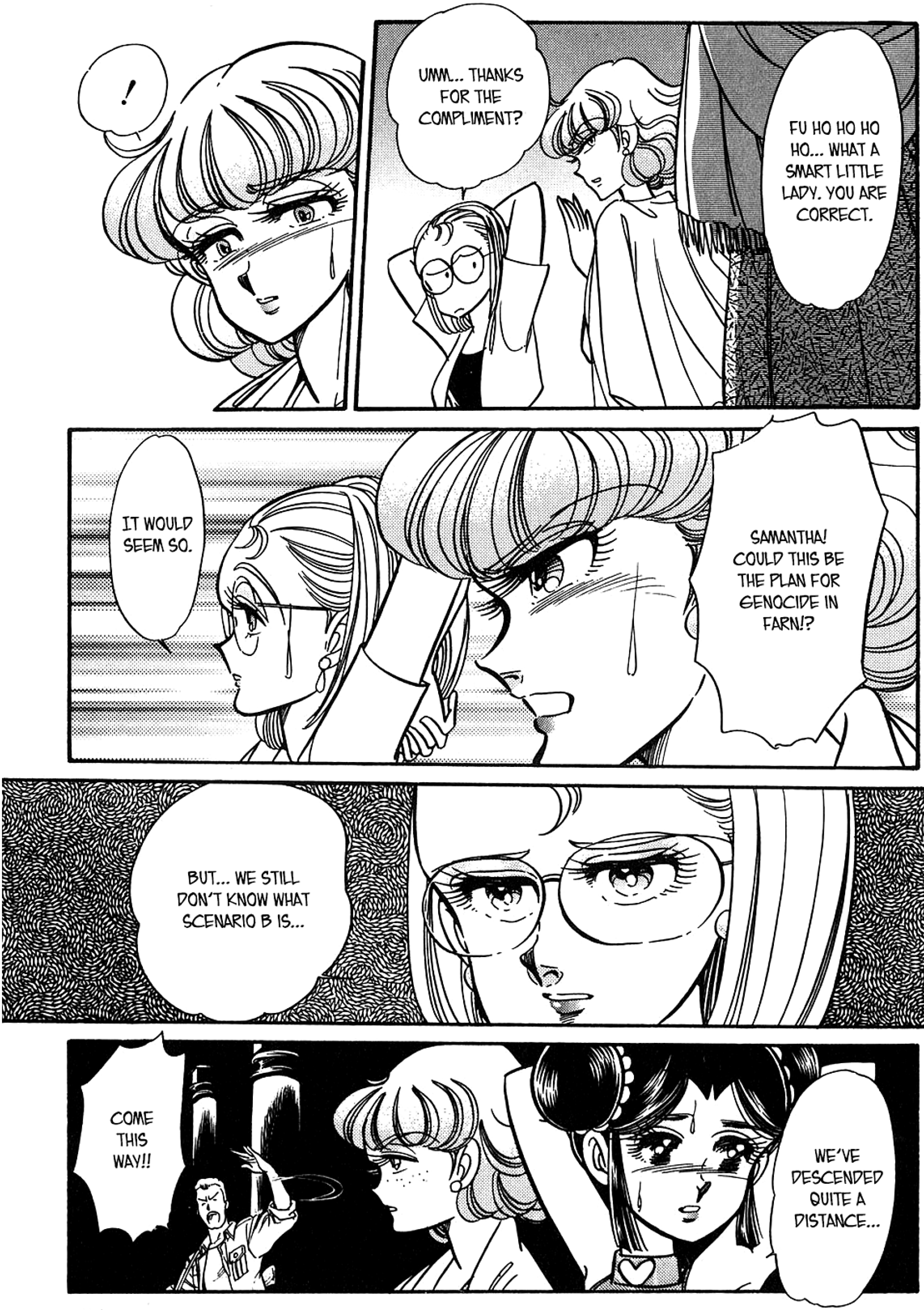
File 25: Double Spade (10)

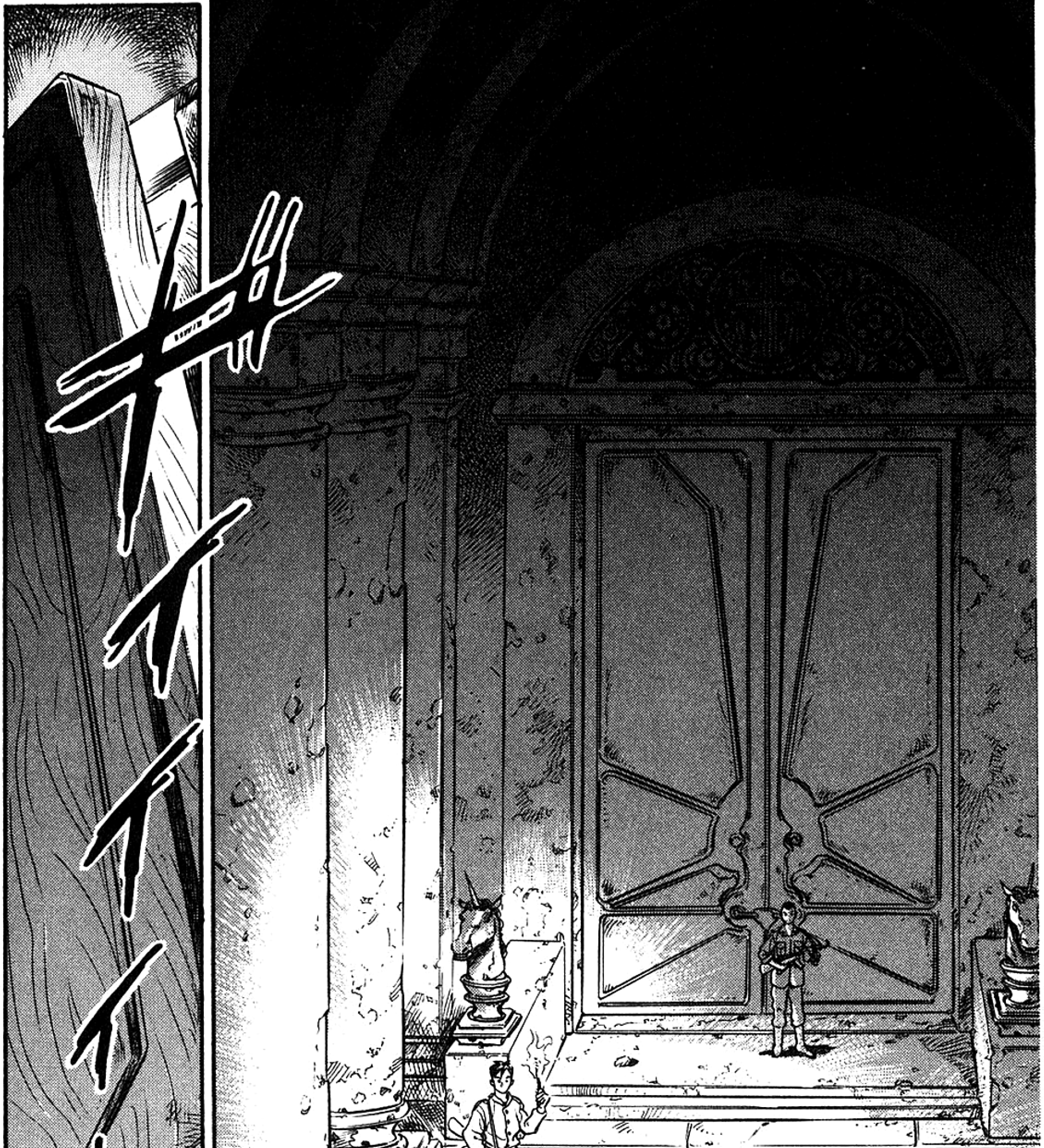



EVEN FOR VESBANIA, FARNBUG IS QUITE OLD. IT'S EVEN OLDER THAN THE CAPITAL CITY OF VESTA.
SINCE THE SIXTH CENTURY IT HAS BEEN BURNED AND DESTROYED A NUMBER TIMES IN VARIOUS BATTLES.
BUT THE PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS REBUILT IT.
THIS TOWN HAS A LONG, LONG HISTORY.
THANKS FOR BEING OUR TOUR GUIDE.
SO...WHAT HAPPENS TO US?...

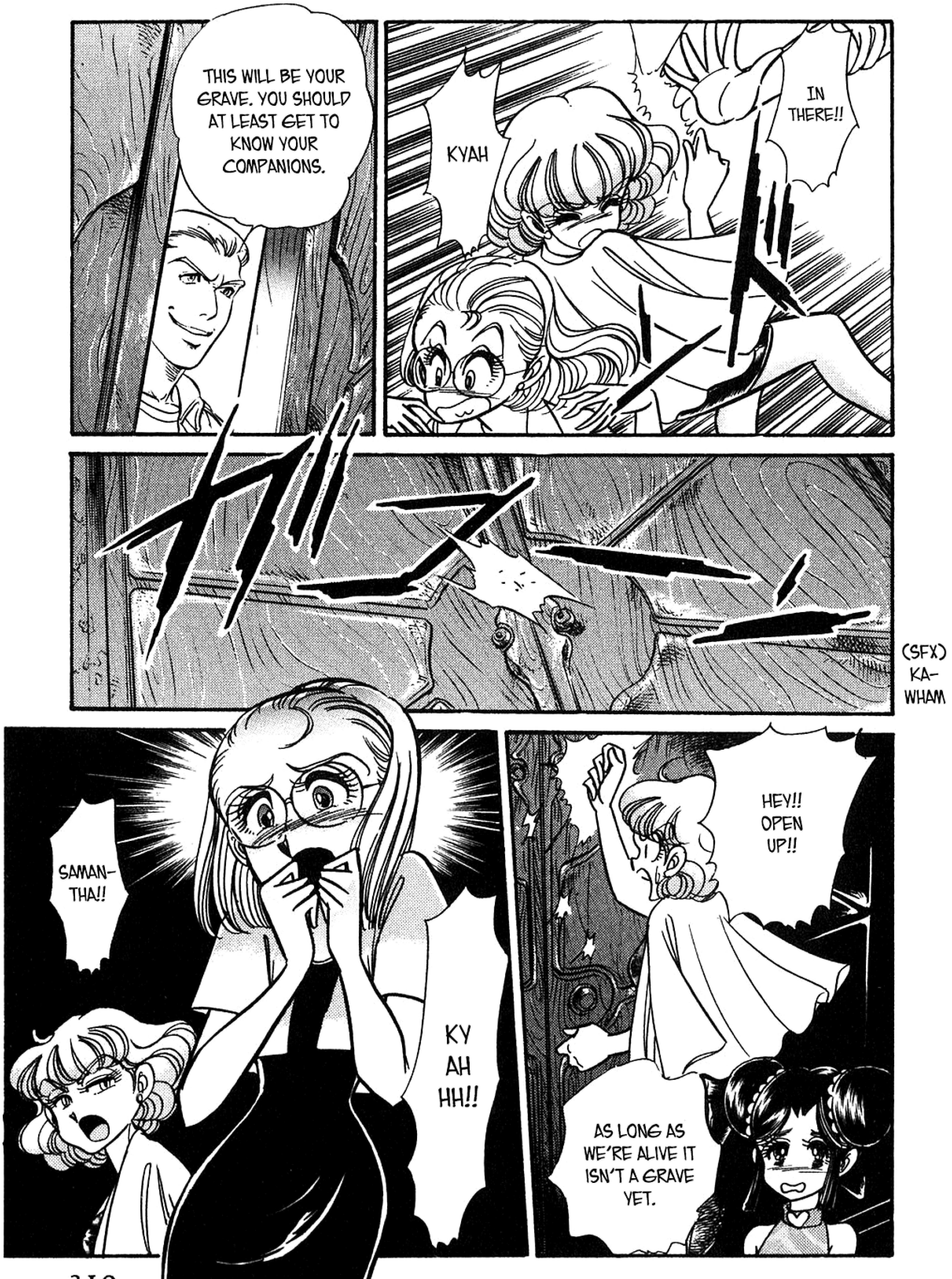

A NEW CITY WAS BUILT ON TOP OF THE RUINS OF THE OLD, AND THEN AFTER ANOTHER BATTLE, ANOTHER CITY WAS BUILT ON TOP OF THOSE RUINS...
OLD PEOPLE TALK AND TALK AND TALK.
WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
YOUNG GIRLS THESE DAYS CERTAINLY ARE QUICK-TEMPERED.
AND HERE I AM LETTING YOU IN ON SOMETHING THAT ISN'T IN ANY GUIDEBOOK...
THEN STOP PUTTING ON AIRS AND GET TO THE POINT.
LIFE IS SHORT.
ORIGINALLY, FARN WAS IN A HOLLOW DEPRESSION, BUT NOW IT IS ON HILL. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY?
...YOU SAID THEY BUILT THE NEW TOWNS ON TOP OF THE OLD.

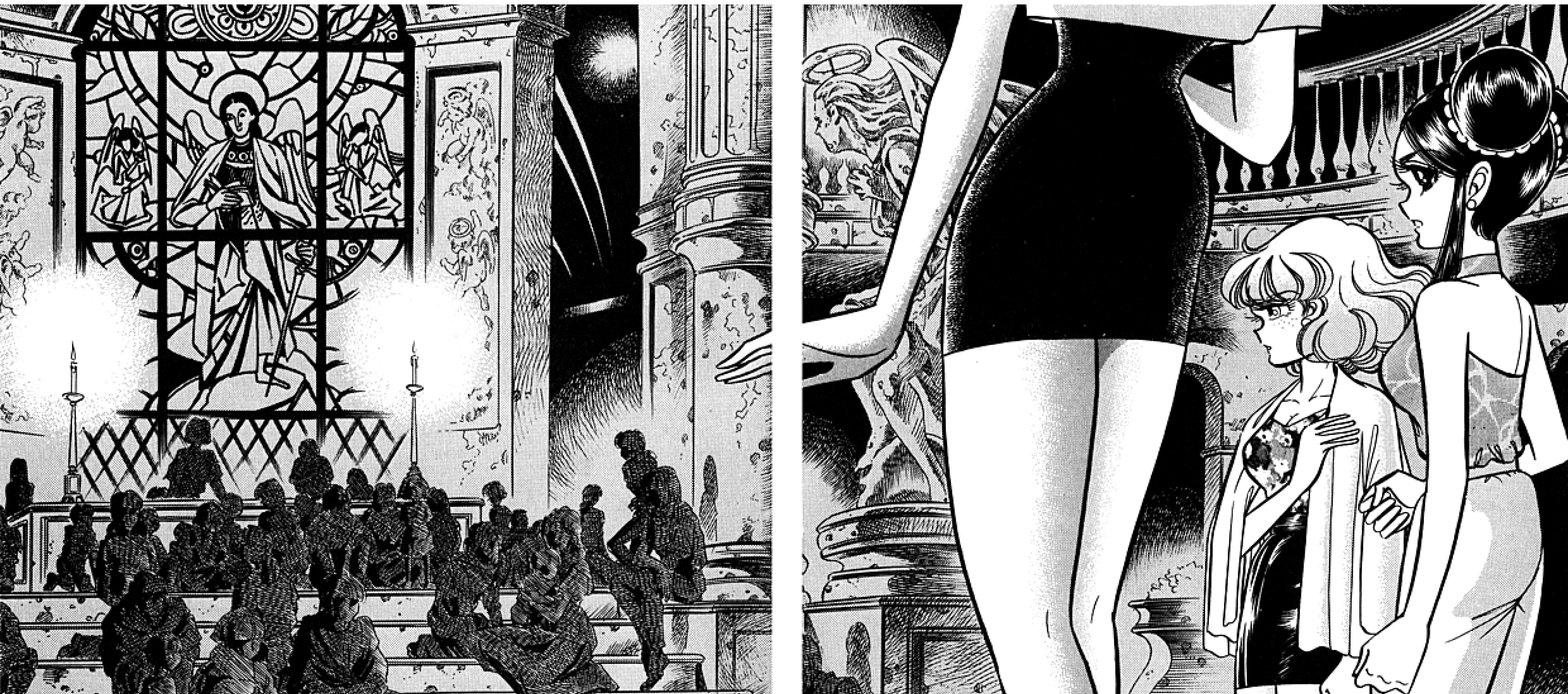

BECAUSE THIS FARN IS BUILT ON TOP OF OTHER TOWNS,
THE ENTIRE TOWN IS CONSTRUCTED ABOVE SIX LAYERS.
BUT HAVING SAID THAT, ONLY THREE LEVELS ARE ACCESSIBLE.
THERE ARE SOME BUILDINGS OF ABOUT TWENTY STORIES.
I READ ABOUT THAT!!
IF SOMEONE WERE TO SET OFF EXPLOSIVES IN ONE OF THE LOWER LEVELS, THE EARTHENWARE STRUCTURE SUPPORTING THE TOWN WOULD CAVE IN.
ALL THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES WOULD END UP BURIED UNDERGROUND!!

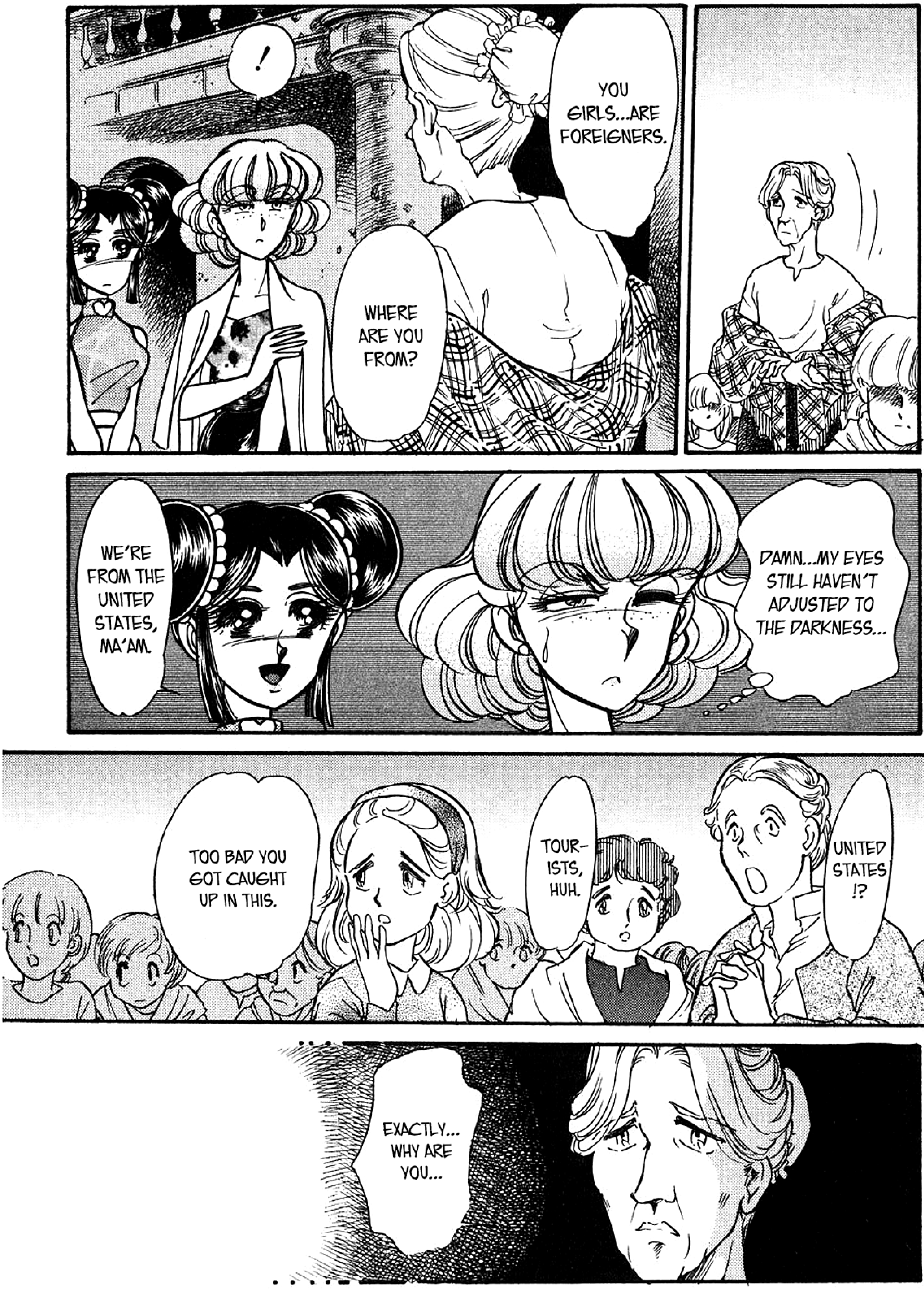

FU HO HO HO... WHAT A SMART LITTLE LADY. YOU ARE CORRECT.
UMM... THANKS FOR THE COMPLIMENT?
!
SAMANTHA! COULD THIS BE THE PLAN FOR GENOCIDE IN FARN!?
IT WOULD SEEM SO.
BUT... WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT SCENARIO B IS...
WE'VE DESCENDED QUITE A DISTANCE...
COME THIS WAY!!

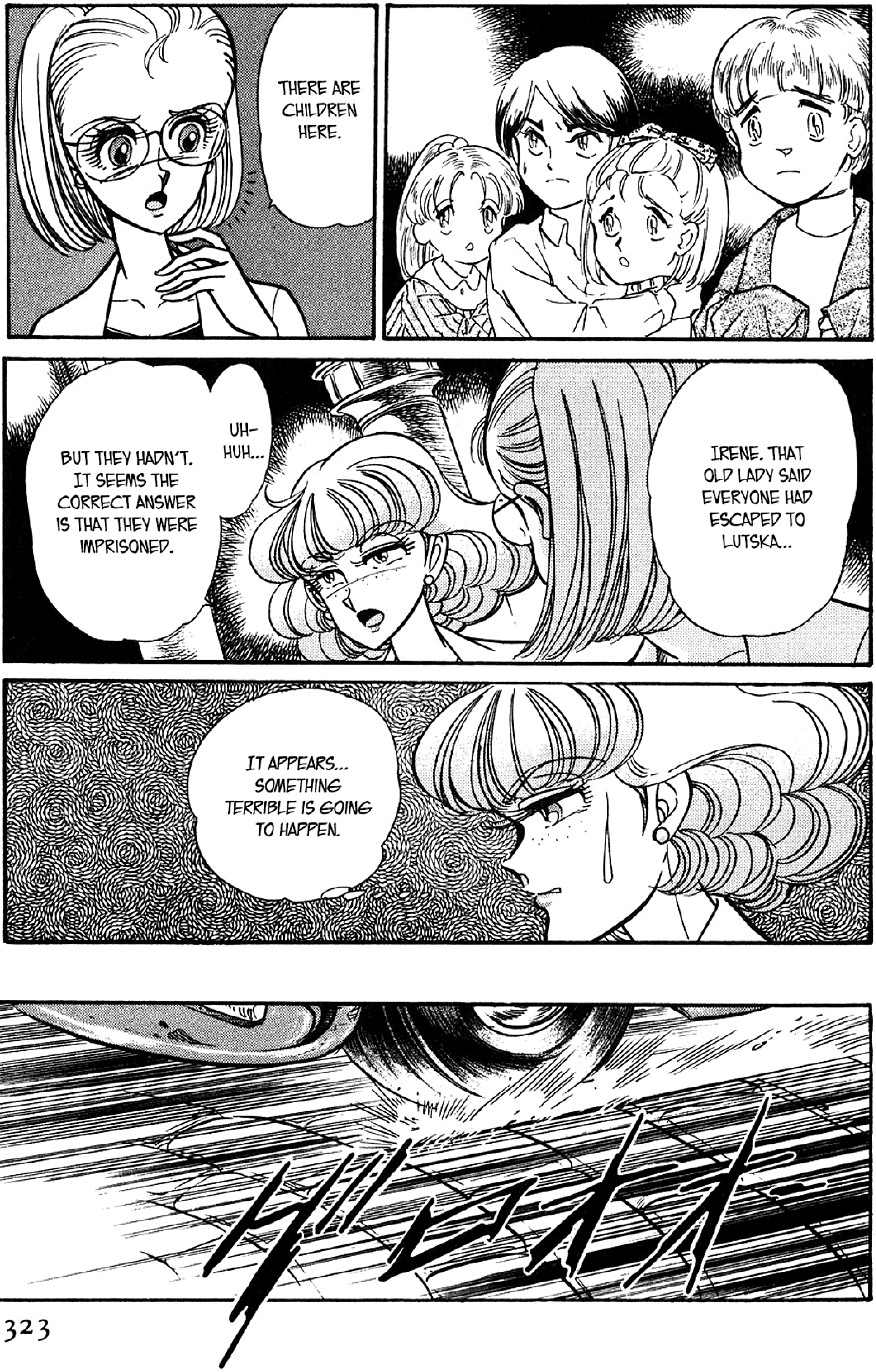


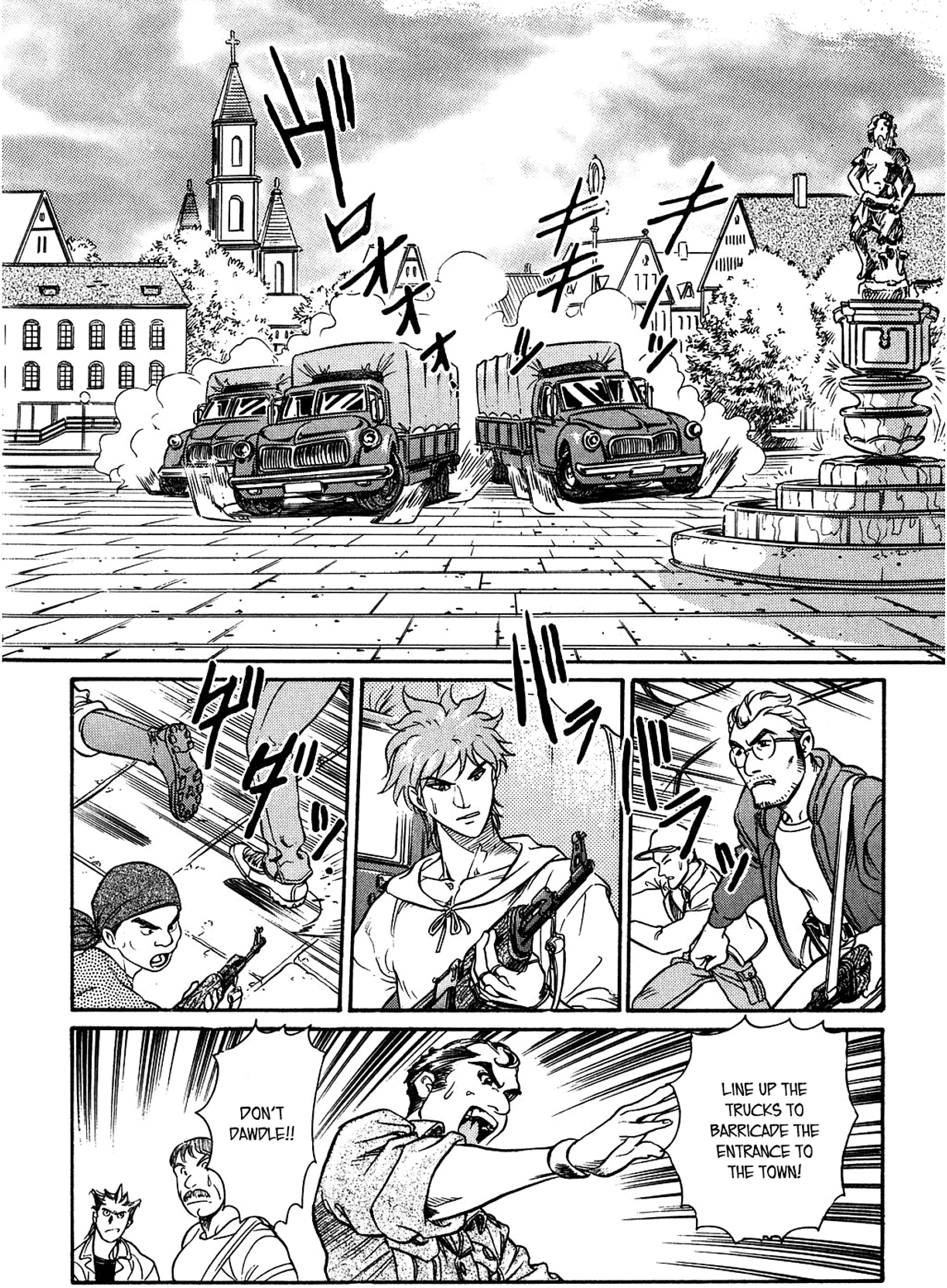
(SFX) CREEEAAAK

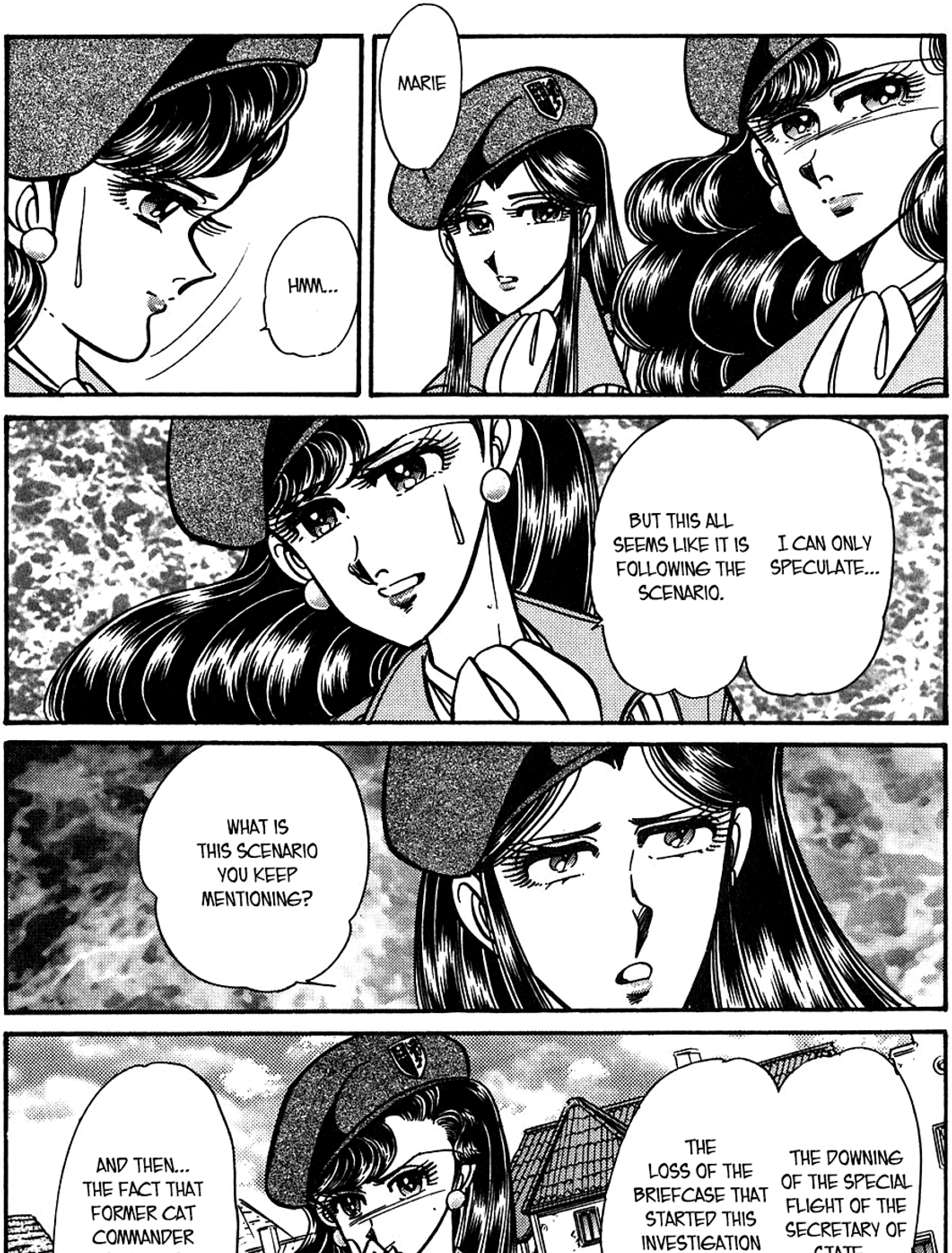

IN THERE!!
KYAH
THIS WILL BE YOUR GRAVE. YOU SHOULD AT LEAST GET TO KNOW YOUR COMPANIONS.
(SFX) KA-WHAM
HEY!! OPEN UP!!
AS LONG AS WE'RE ALIVE IT ISN'T A GRAVE YET.
KY AH HH!!
SAMAN-THA!!

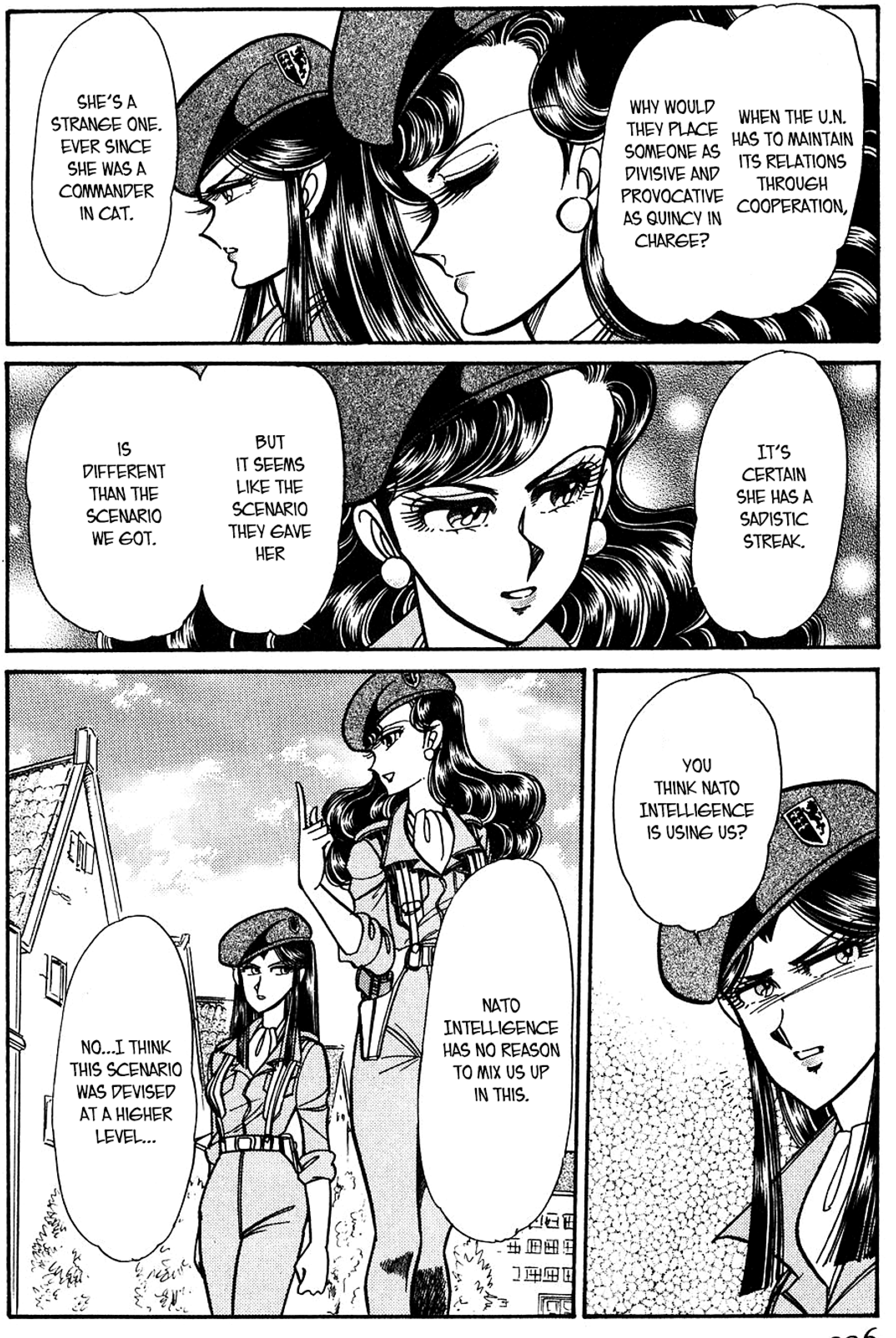

WH- WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?
THERE ARE... A LOT OF THEM.

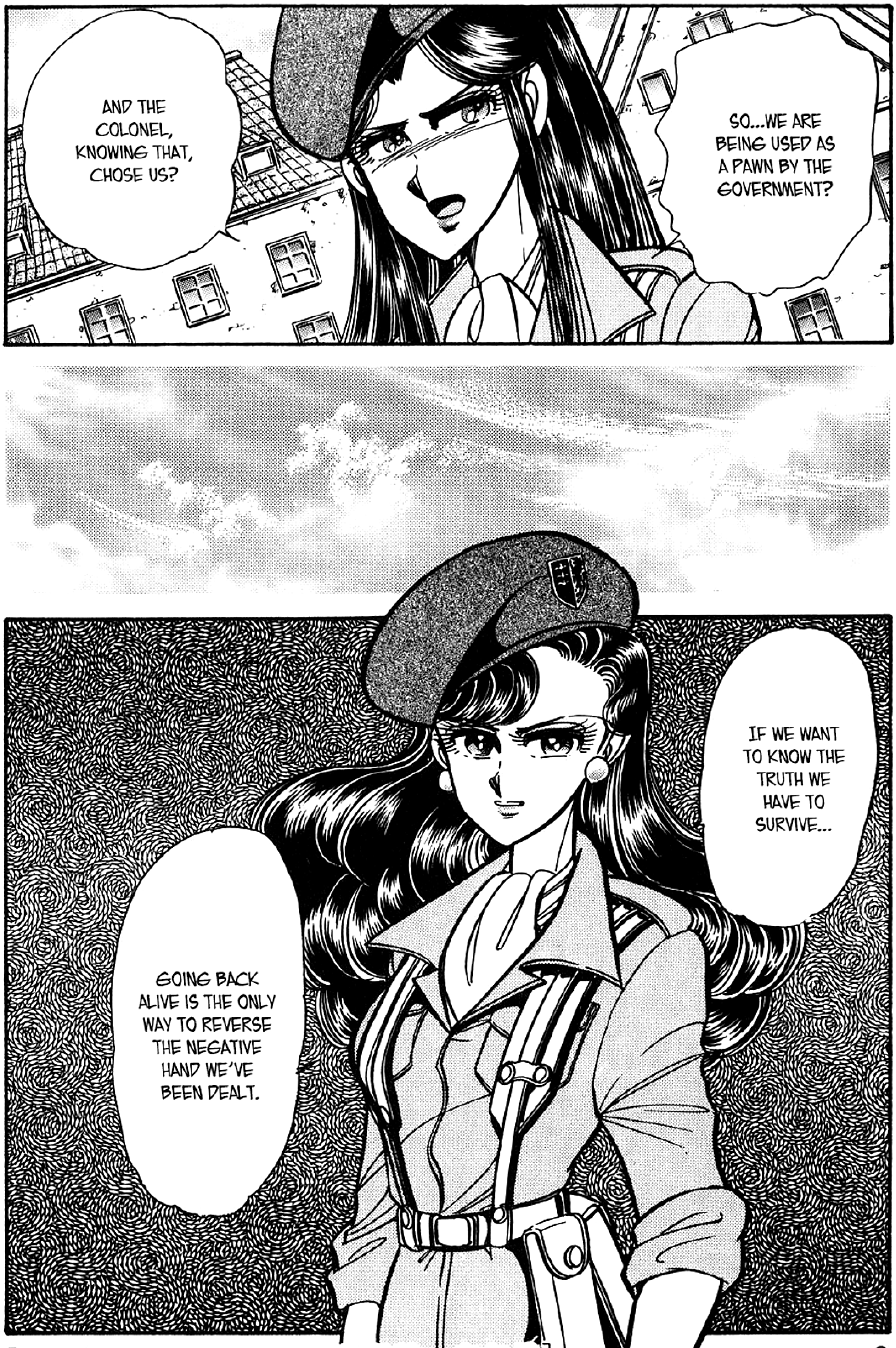

YOU GIRLS...ARE FOREIGNERS.
!
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
DAMN...MY EYES STILL HAVEN'T ADJUSTED TO THE DARKNESS...
WE'RE FROM THE UNITED STATES, MA'AM.
UNITED STATES!?
TOUR-ISTS, HUH.
TOO BAD YOU GOT CAUGHT UP IN THIS.
EXACTLY... WHY ARE YOU...

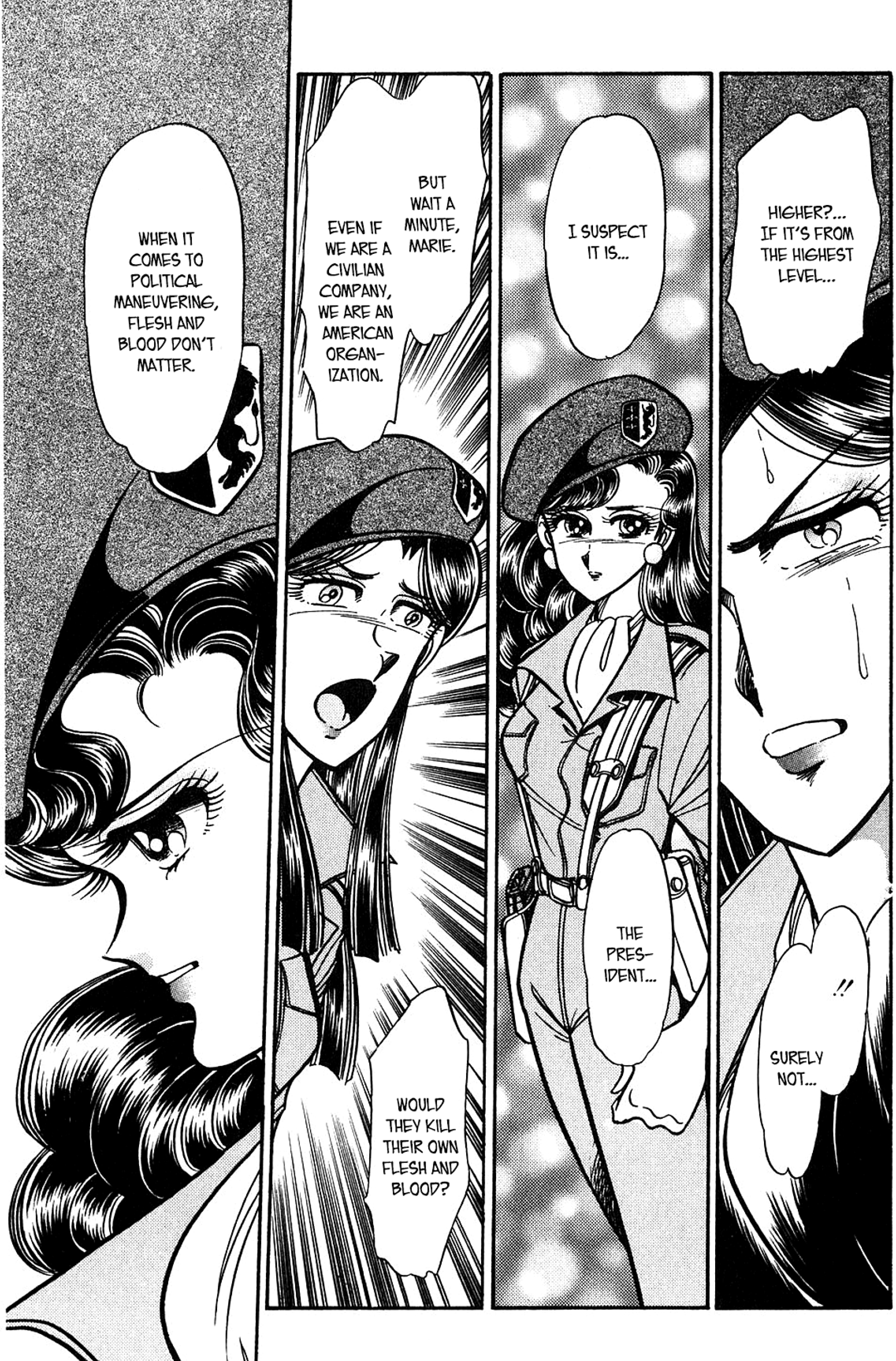

THERE ARE CHILDREN HERE.
IRENE. THAT OLD LADY SAID EVERYONE HAD ESCAPED TO LUTSKA...
UH-HUH...
BUT THEY HADN'T. IT SEEMS THE CORRECT ANSWER IS THAT THEY WERE IMPRISONED.
IT APPEARS... SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS GOING TO HAPPEN.
ゲヒュオオ

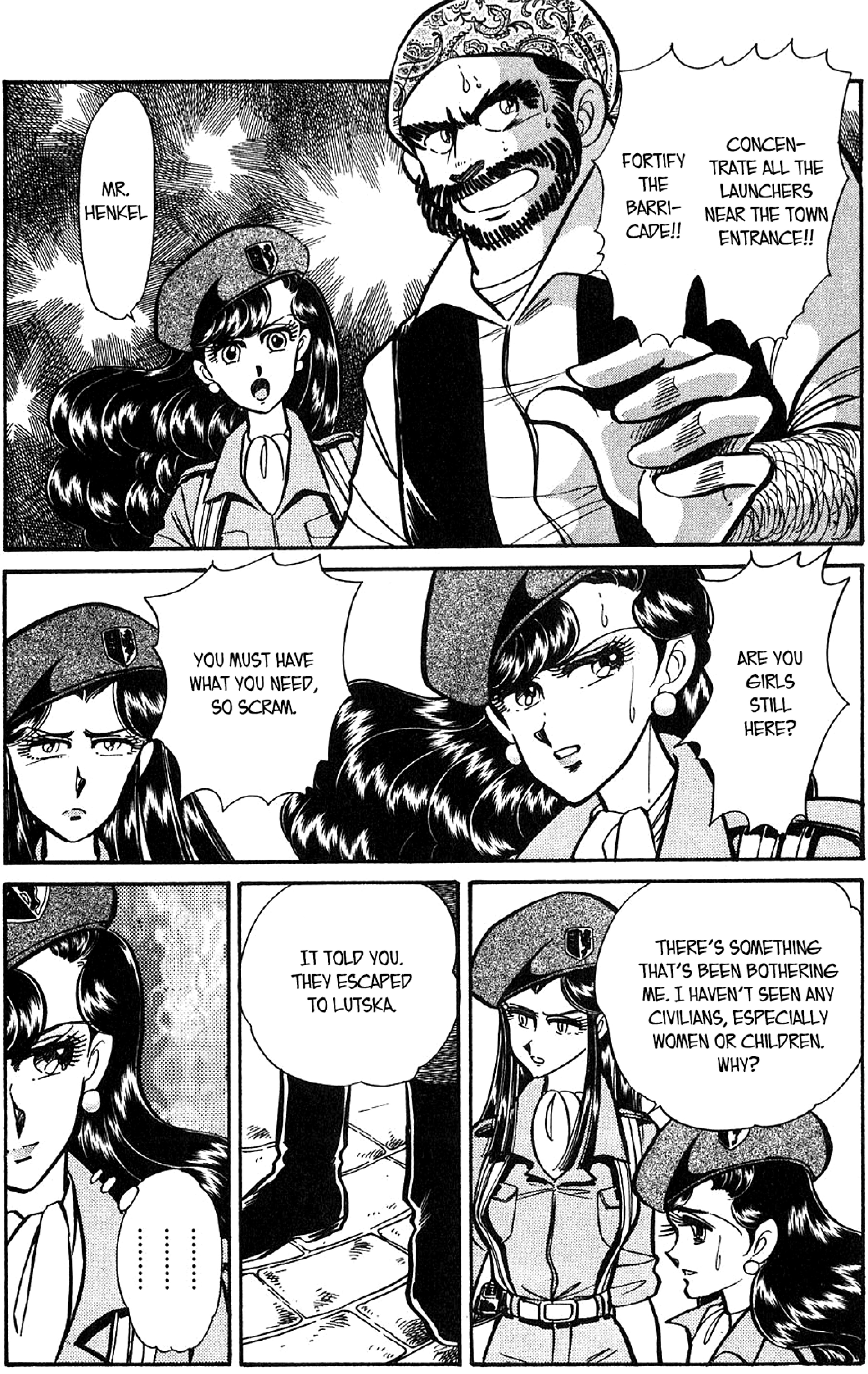

キィィッ
キキキッ
ドロオオオ
バラ
バラッ
ダダッ
LINE UP THE TRUCKS TO BARRICADE THE ENTRANCE TO THE TOWN!
DON'T DAWDLE!!


MARIE
HMM...
I CAN ONLY SPECULATE...
BUT THIS ALL SEEMS LIKE IT IS FOLLOWING THE SCENARIO.
WHAT IS THIS SCENARIO YOU KEEP MENTIONING?
THE DOWNING OF THE SPECIAL FLIGHT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE...
THE LOSS OF THE BRIEFCASE THAT STARTED THIS INVESTIGATION AND ALSO THE INVOLVEMENT OF CAT...
AND THEN... THE FACT THAT FORMER CAT COMMANDER QUINCY IS SUDDENLY IN NATO INTELLIGENCE...


WHEN THE U.N. HAS TO MAINTAIN ITS RELATIONS THROUGH COOPERATION,
WHY WOULD THEY PLACE SOMEONE AS DIVISIVE AND PROVOCATIVE AS QUINCY IN CHARGE?
SHE'S A STRANGE ONE. EVER SINCE SHE WAS A COMMANDER IN CAT.
IT'S CERTAIN SHE HAS A SADISTIC STREAK.
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THE SCENARIO THEY GAVE HER
IS DIFFERENT THAN THE SCENARIO WE GOT.
YOU THINK NATO INTELLIGENCE IS USING US?
NATO INTELLIGENCE HAS NO REASON TO MIX US UP IN THIS.
NO...I THINK THIS SCENARIO WAS DEVISED AT A HIGHER LEVEL...


SO...WE ARE BEING USED AS A PAWN BY THE GOVERNMENT?
AND THE COLONEL, KNOWING THAT, CHOSE US?
IF WE WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH WE HAVE TO SURVIVE...
GOING BACK ALIVE IS THE ONLY WAY TO REVERSE THE NEGATIVE HAND WE'VE BEEN DEALT.

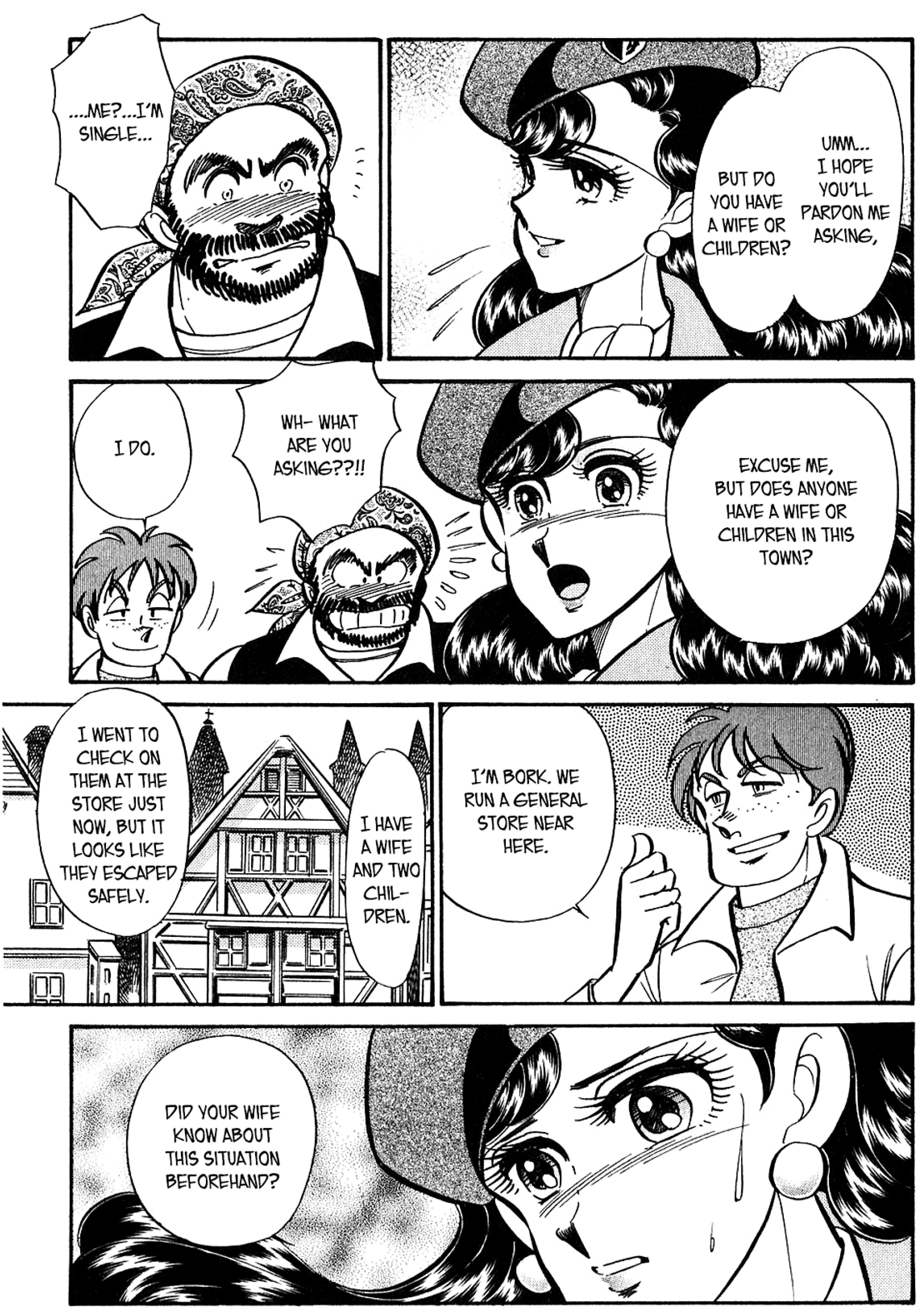

HIGHER?... IF IT'S FROM THE HIGHEST LEVEL...
!!
SURELY NOT...
I SUSPECT IT IS...
THE PRESIDENT...
BUT WAIT A MINUTE, MARIE.
EVEN IF WE ARE A CIVILIAN COMPANY, WE ARE AN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION.
WOULD THEY KILL THEIR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD?
WHEN IT COMES TO POLITICAL MANEUVERING, FLESH AND BLOOD DON'T MATTER.

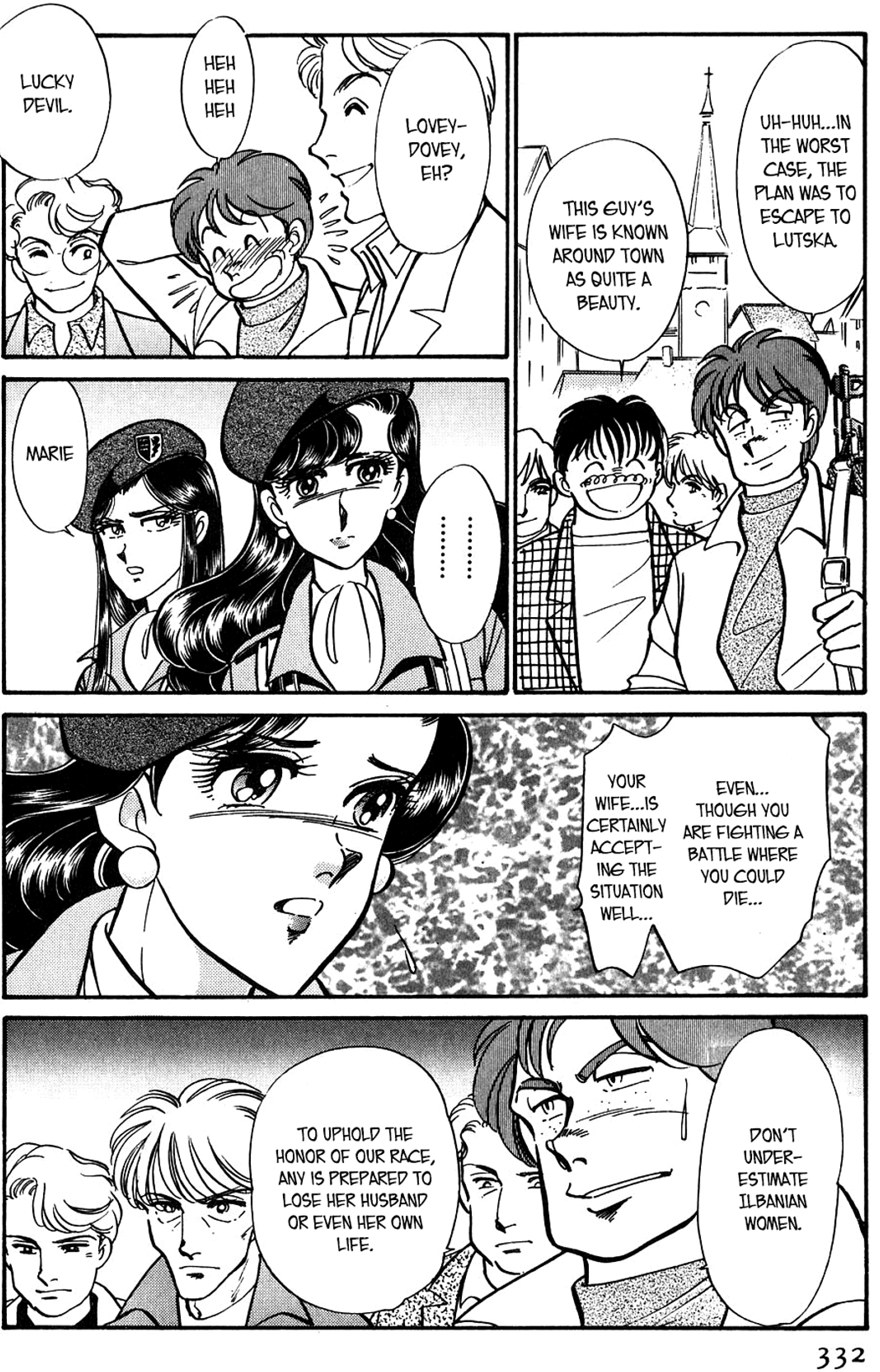

CONCEN-TRATE ALL THE LAUNCHERS NEAR THE TOWN ENTRANCE!!
FORTIFY THE BARRI-CADE!!
MR. HENKEL
ARE YOU GIRLS STILL HERE?
YOU MUST HAVE WHAT YOU NEED, SO SCRAM.
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME. I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY CIVILIANS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN OR CHILDREN. WHY?
IT TOLD YOU. THEY ESCAPED TO LUTSKA.
......

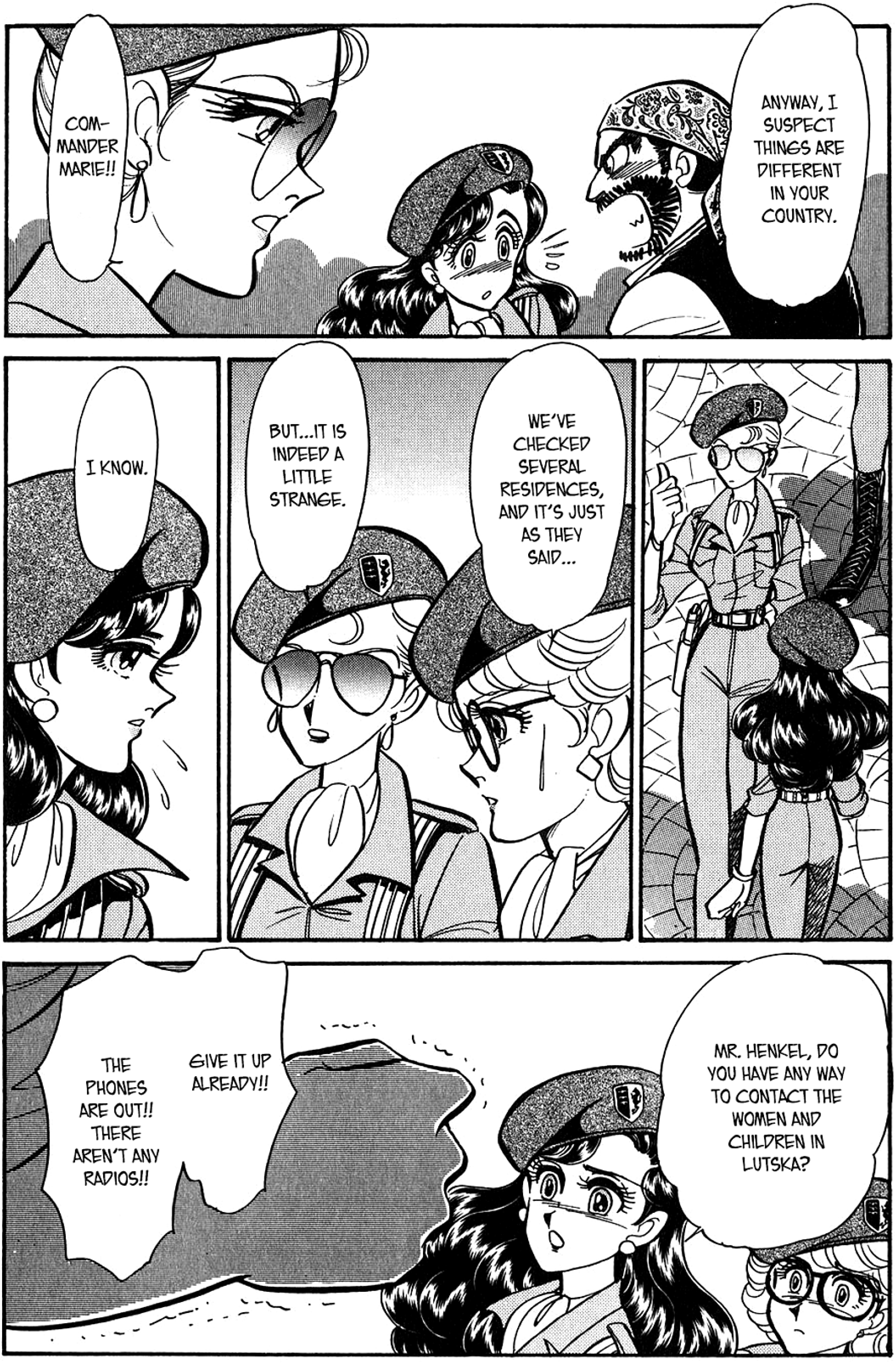
砂の薔薇

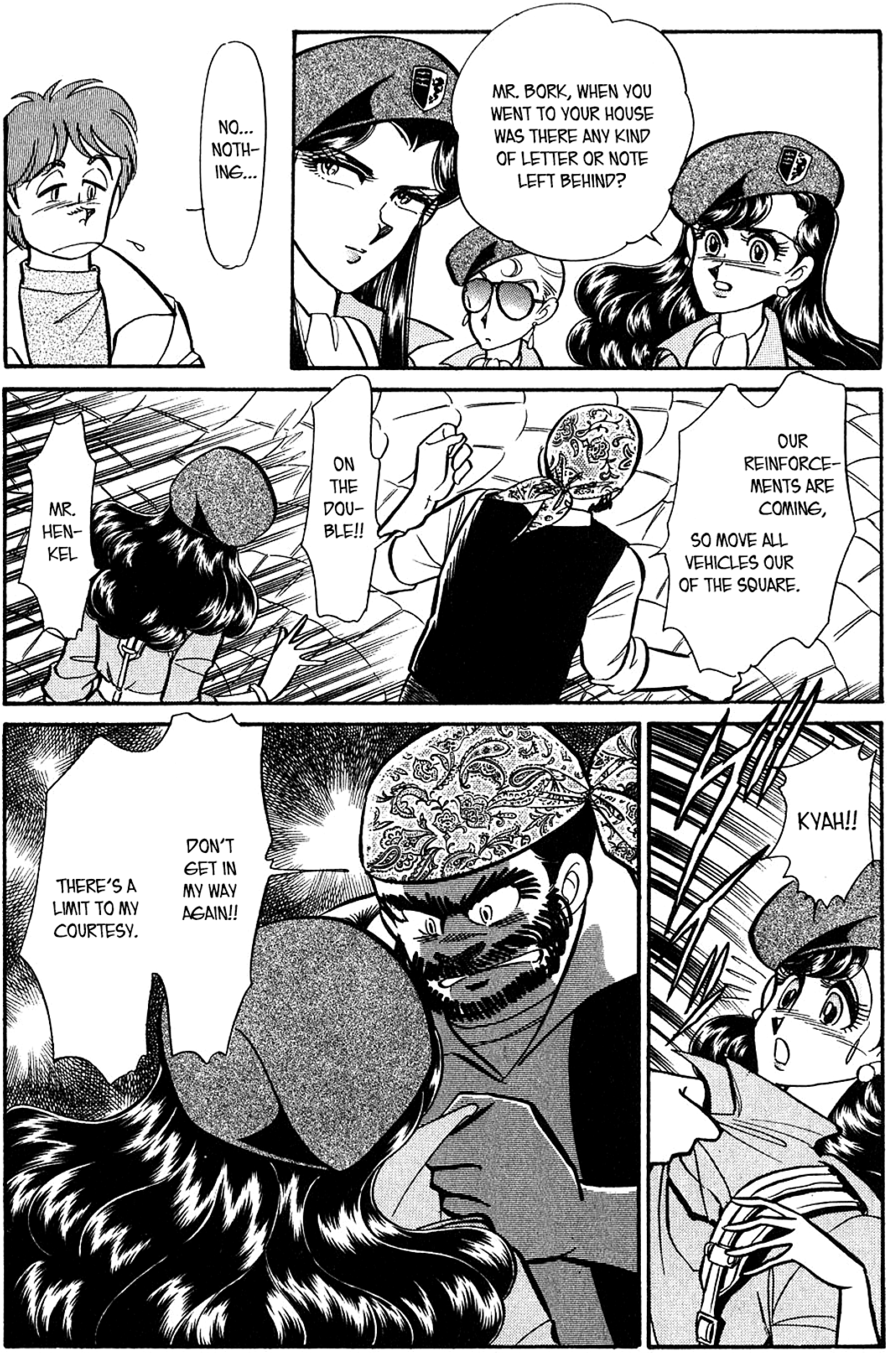
デザート・ローズ

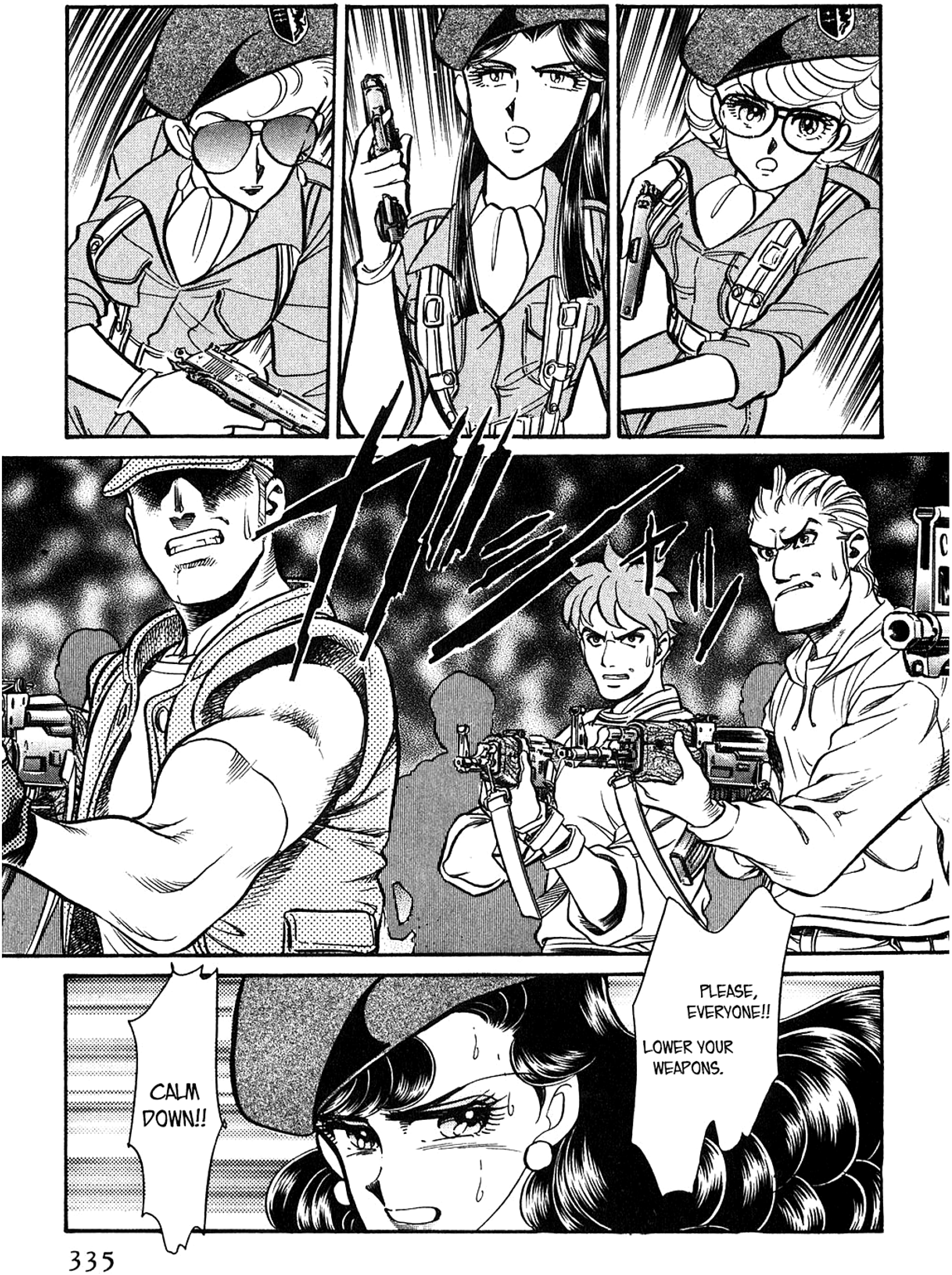
File 25:
Double Spade (11)

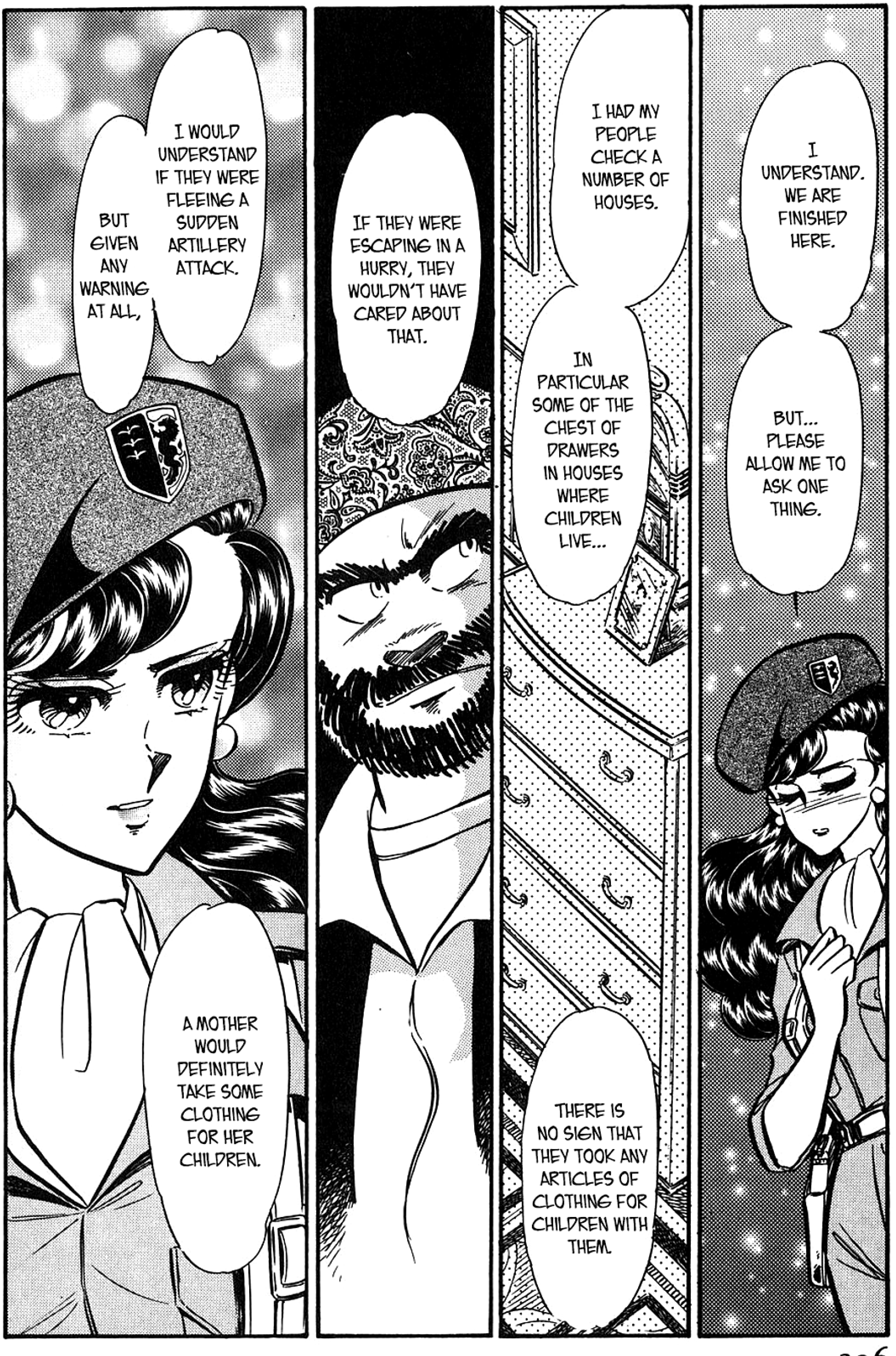

UMM... I HOPE YOU'LL PARDON ME ASKING,
BUT DO YOU HAVE A WIFE OR CHILDREN?
....ME?...I'M SINGLE...
EXCUSE ME, BUT DOES ANYONE HAVE A WIFE OR CHILDREN IN THIS TOWN?
WH- WHAT ARE YOU ASKING??!!
I DO.
I'M BORK. WE RUN A GENERAL STORE NEAR HERE.
I HAVE A WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN.
I WENT TO CHECK ON THEM AT THE STORE JUST NOW, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY ESCAPED SAFELY.
DID YOUR WIFE KNOW ABOUT THIS SITUATION BEFOREHAND?

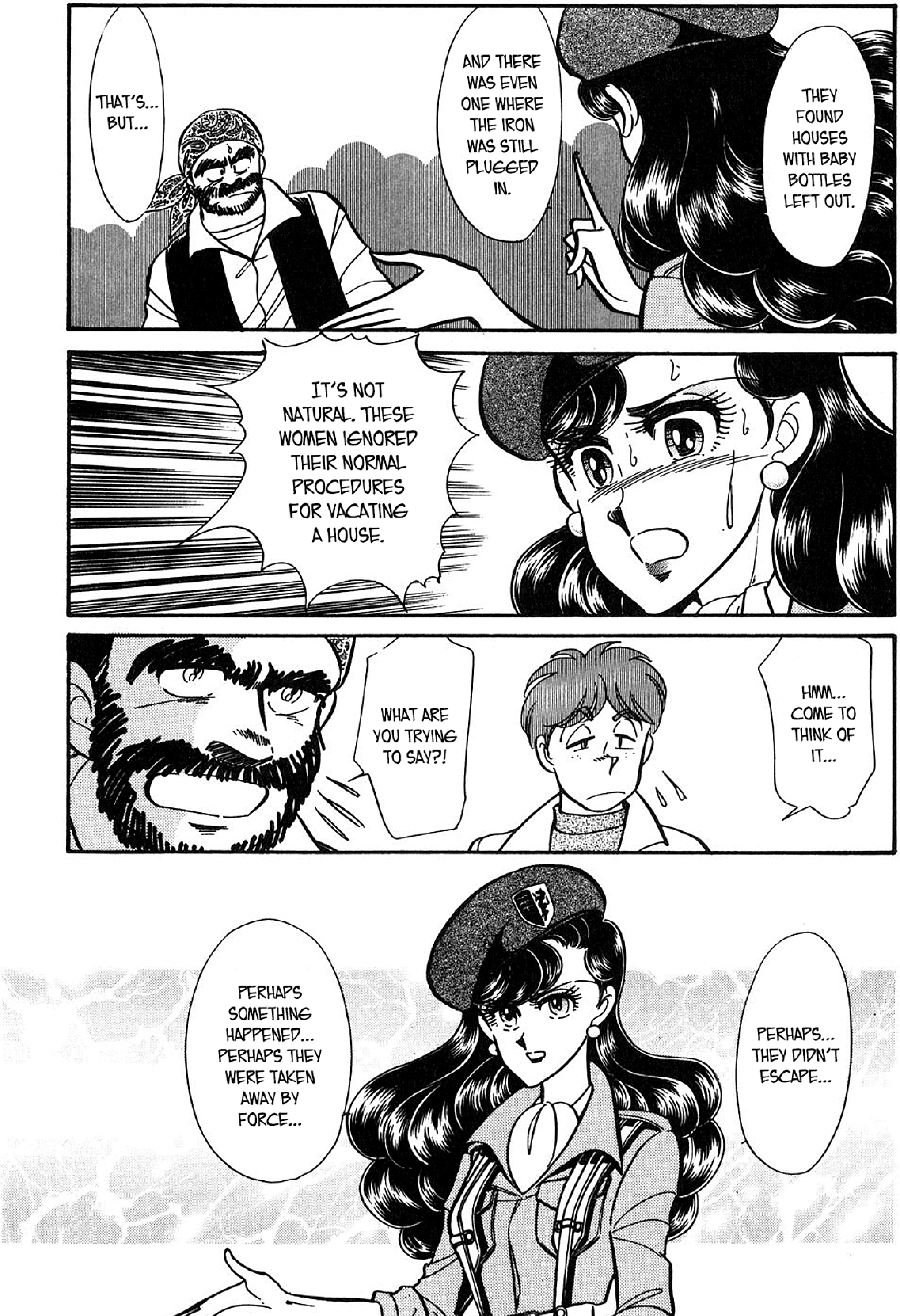

UH-HUH...IN THE WORST CASE, THE PLAN WAS TO ESCAPE TO LUTSKA.
THIS GUY'S WIFE IS KNOWN AROUND TOWN AS QUITE A BEAUTY.
LOVEY-DOVEY, EH?
HEH HEH HEH
LUCKY DEVIL.
……
MARIE
EVEN... THOUGH YOU ARE FIGHTING A BATTLE WHERE YOU COULD DIE...
YOUR WIFE...IS CERTAINLY ACCEPTING THE SITUATION WELL...
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ILBANIAN WOMEN.
TO UPHOLD THE HONOR OF OUR RACE, ANY IS PREPARED TO LOSE HER HUSBAND OR EVEN HER OWN LIFE.

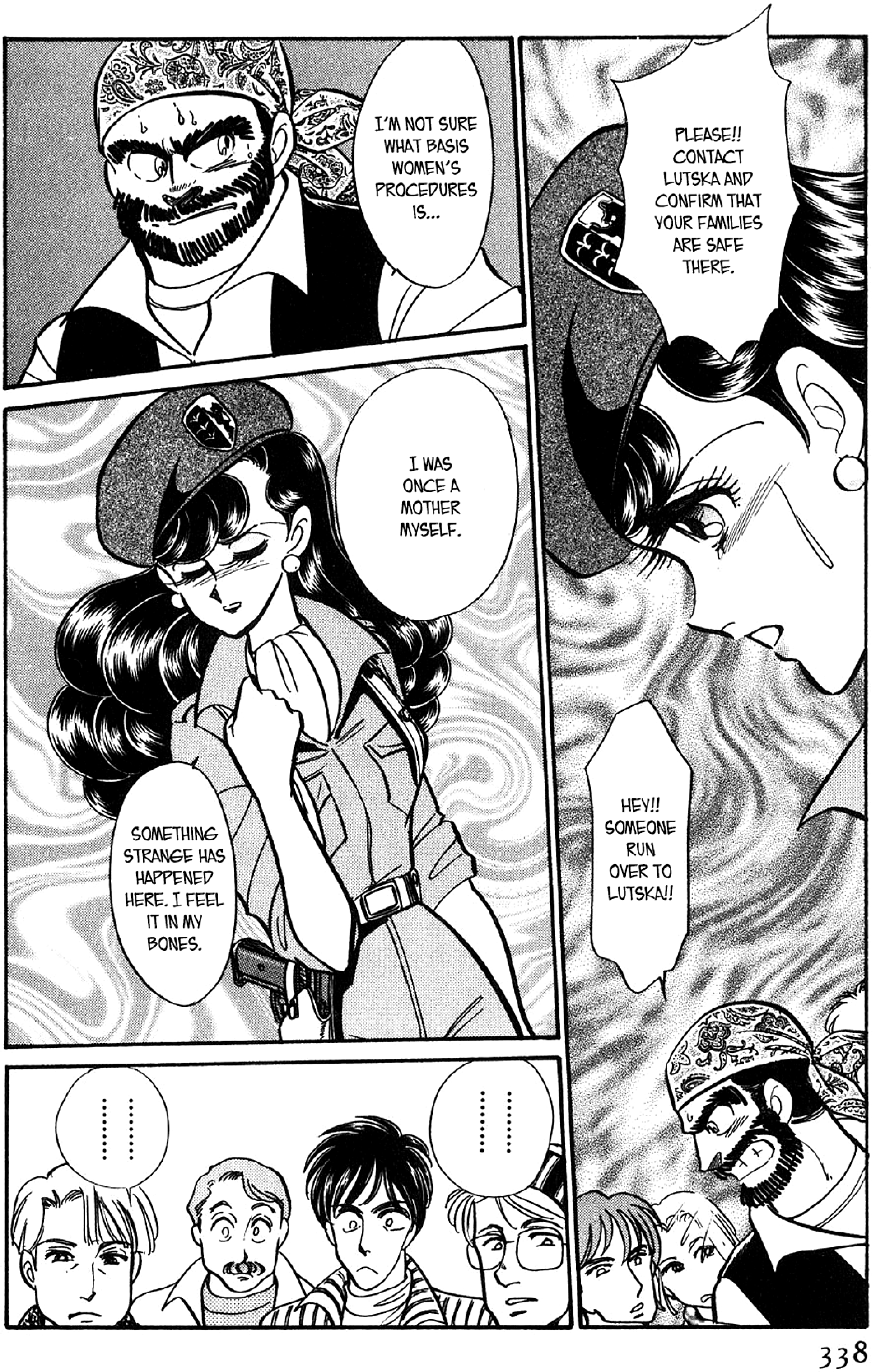

ANYWAY, I SUSPECT THINGS ARE DIFFERENT IN YOUR COUNTRY.
COMMANDER MARIE!!
WE'VE CHECKED SEVERAL RESIDENCES, AND IT'S JUST AS THEY SAID...
BUT...IT IS INDEED A LITTLE STRANGE.
I KNOW.
MR. HENKEL, DO YOU HAVE ANY WAY TO CONTACT THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN LUTSKA?
GIVE IT UP ALREADY!!
THE PHONES ARE OUT!! THERE AREN'T ANY RADIOS!!

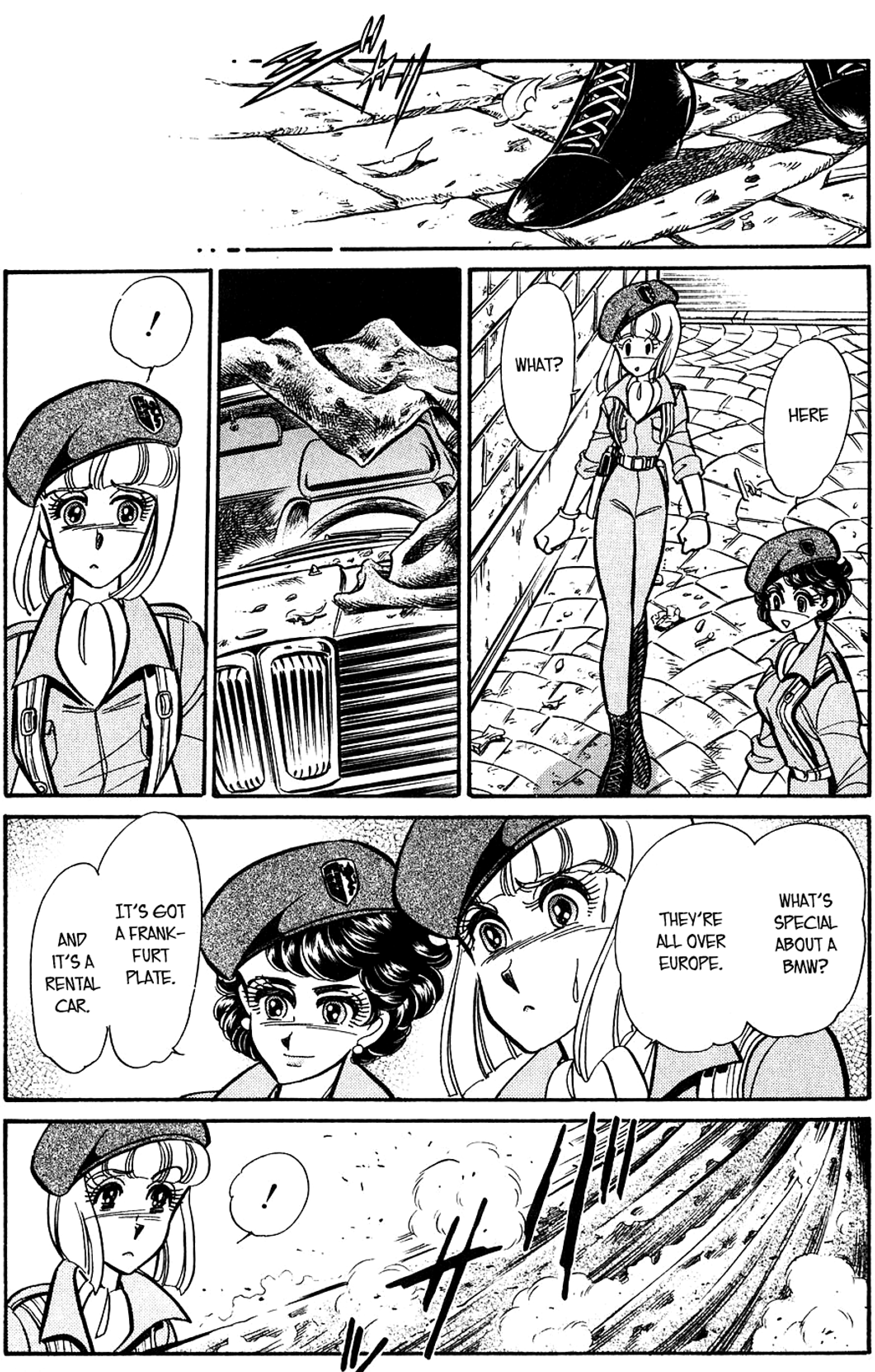

MR. BORK, WHEN YOU WENT TO YOUR HOUSE WAS THERE ANY KIND OF LETTER OR NOTE LEFT BEHIND?
NO... NOTHING...
OUR REINFORCEMENTS ARE COMING,
SO MOVE ALL VEHICLES OUR OF THE SQUARE.
ON THE DOUBLE!!
MR. HENKEL
KYAH!!
DON'T GET IN MY WAY AGAIN!!
THERE'S A LIMIT TO MY COURTESY.

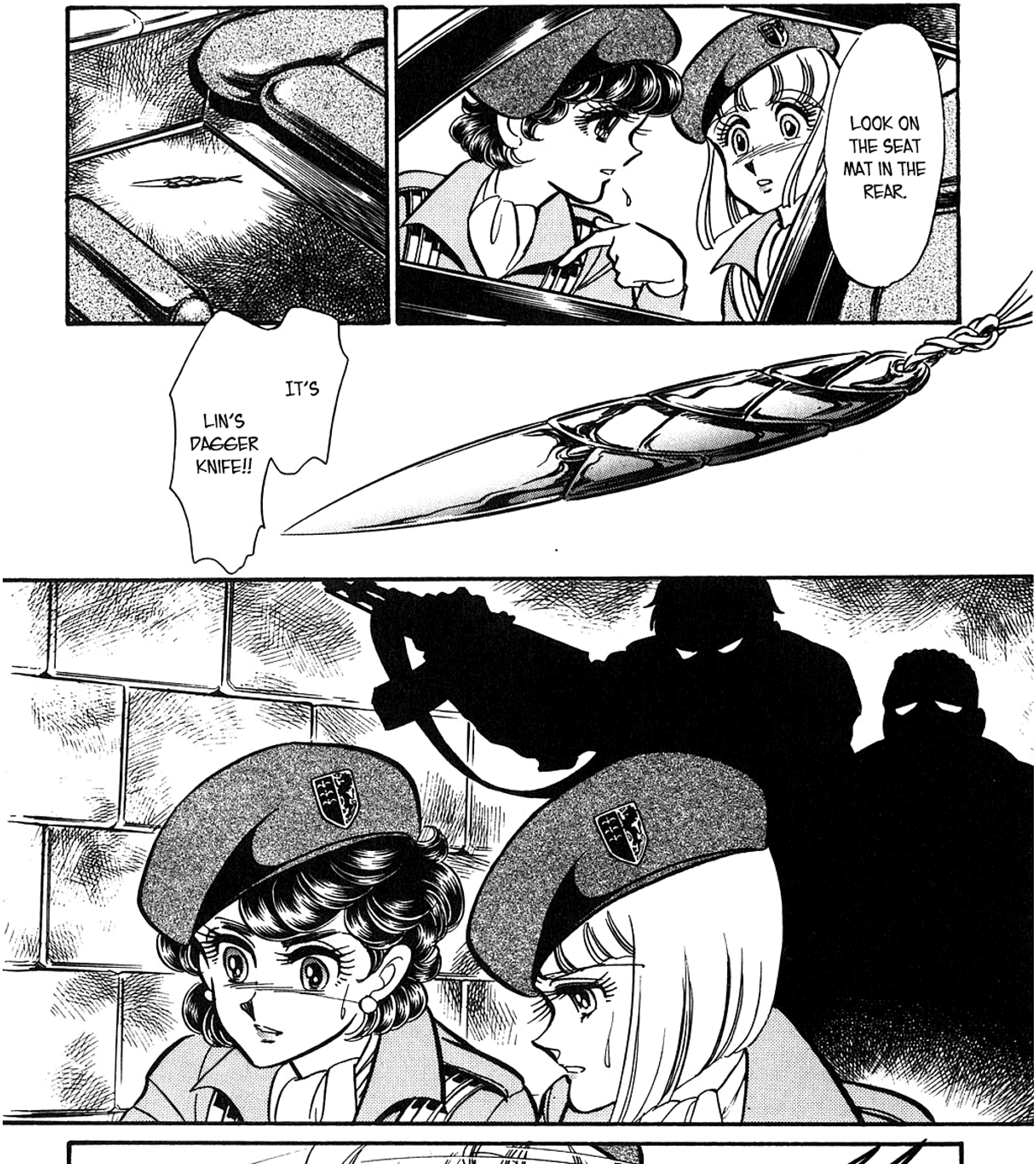

ガシャッ
PLEASE, EVERYONE!!
LOWER YOUR WEAPONS.
CALM DOWN!!

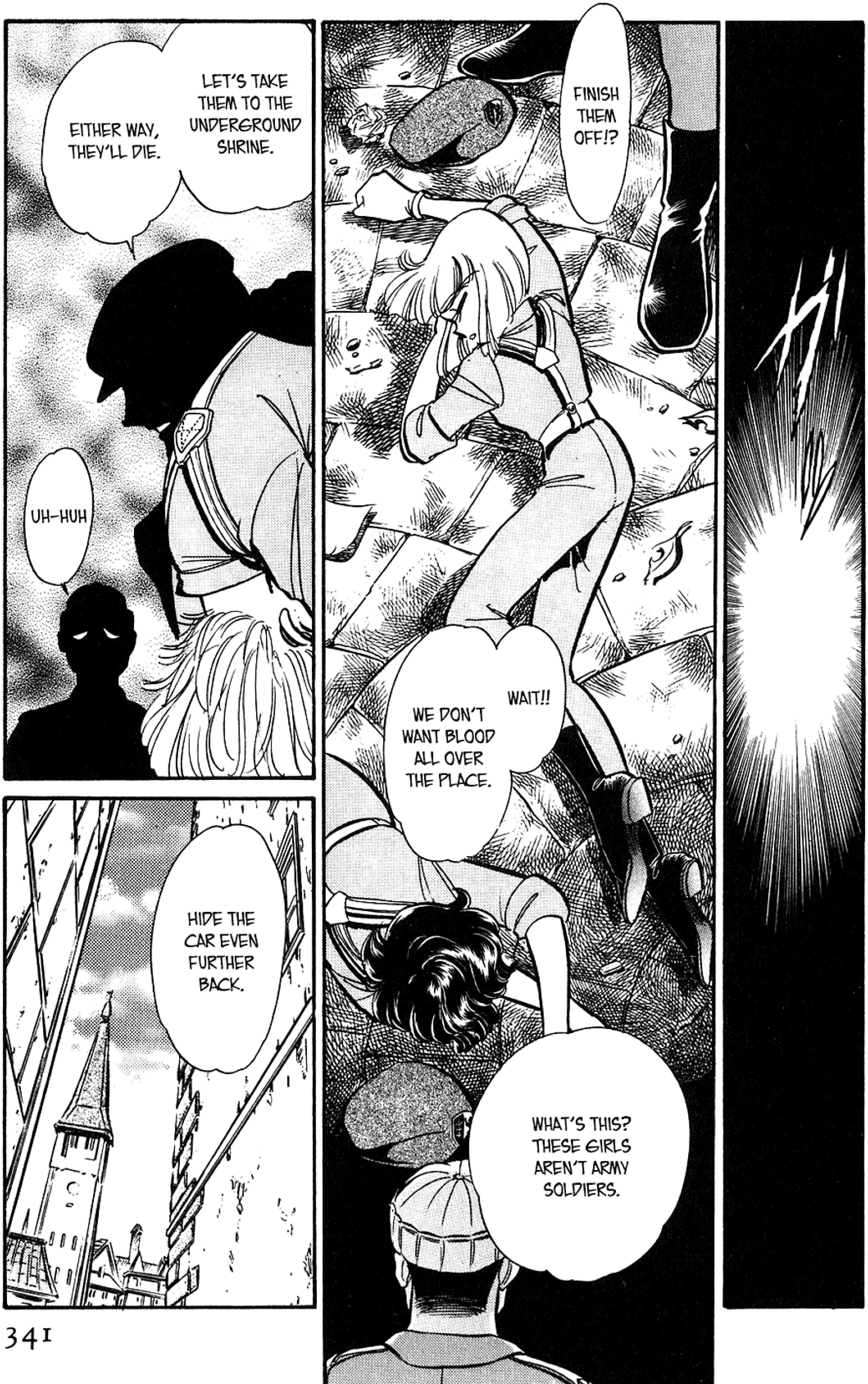

I WOULD UNDERSTAND IF THEY WERE FLEEING A SUDDEN ARTILLERY ATTACK.
BUT GIVEN ANY WARNING AT ALL,
A MOTHER WOULD DEFINITELY TAKE SOME CLOTHING FOR HER CHILDREN.
IF THEY WERE ESCAPING IN A HURRY, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE CARED ABOUT THAT.
I HAD MY PEOPLE CHECK A NUMBER OF HOUSES.
IN PARTICULAR SOME OF THE CHEST OF DRAWERS IN HOUSES WHERE CHILDREN LIVE...
THERE IS NO SIGN THAT THEY TOOK ANY ARTICLES OF CLOTHING FOR CHILDREN WITH THEM.
I UNDERSTAND. WE ARE FINISHED HERE.
BUT... PLEASE ALLOW ME TO ASK ONE THING.

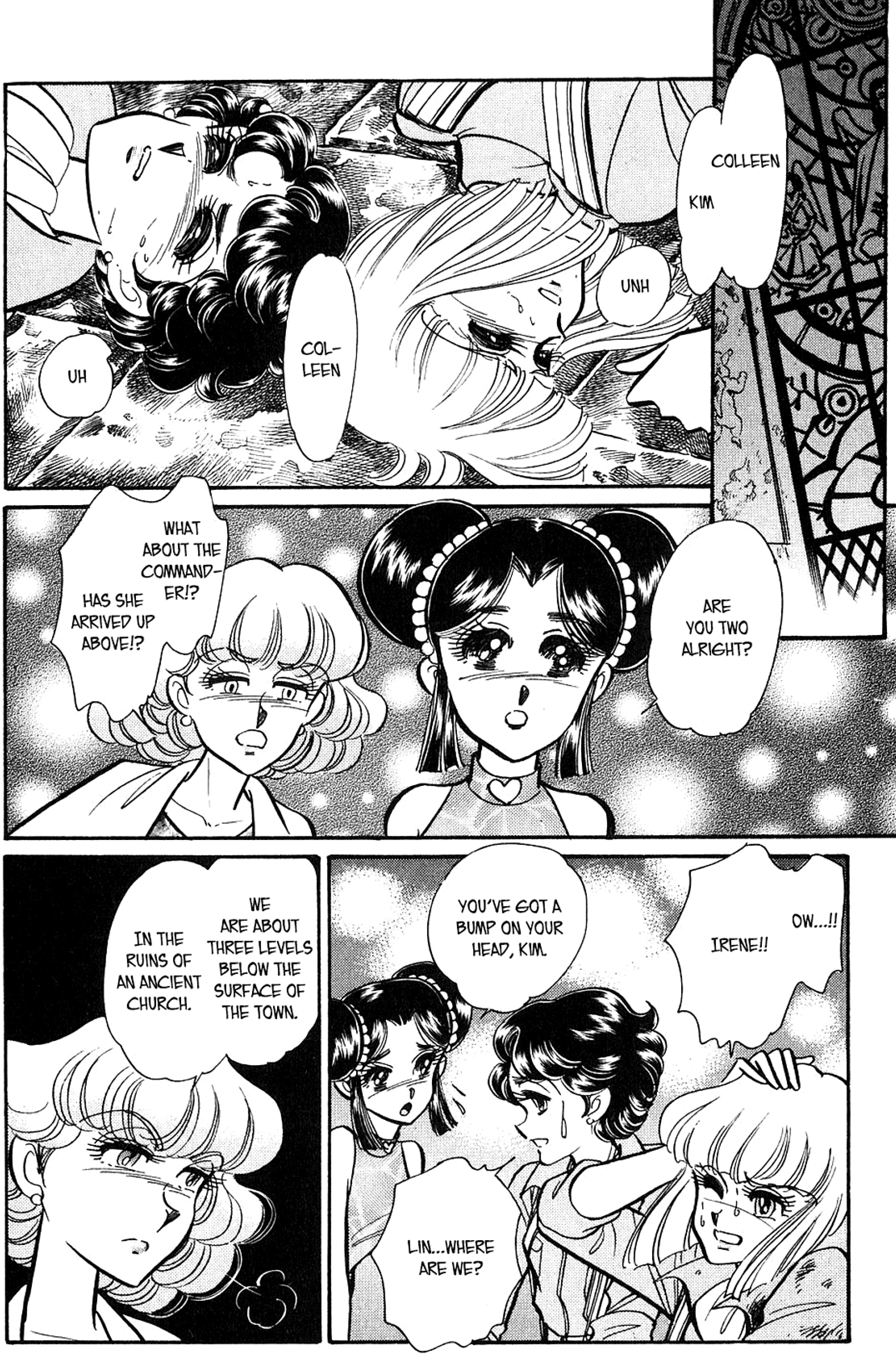

THEY FOUND HOUSES WITH BABY BOTTLES LEFT OUT.
AND THERE WAS EVEN ONE WHERE THE IRON WAS STILL PLUGGED IN.
THAT'S... BUT...
IT'S NOT NATURAL. THESE WOMEN IGNORED THEIR NORMAL PROCEDURES FOR VACATING A HOUSE.
HMM... COME TO THINK OF IT...
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?!
PERHAPS... THEY DIDN'T ESCAPE...
PERHAPS SOMETHING HAPPENED... PERHAPS THEY WERE TAKEN AWAY BY FORCE...

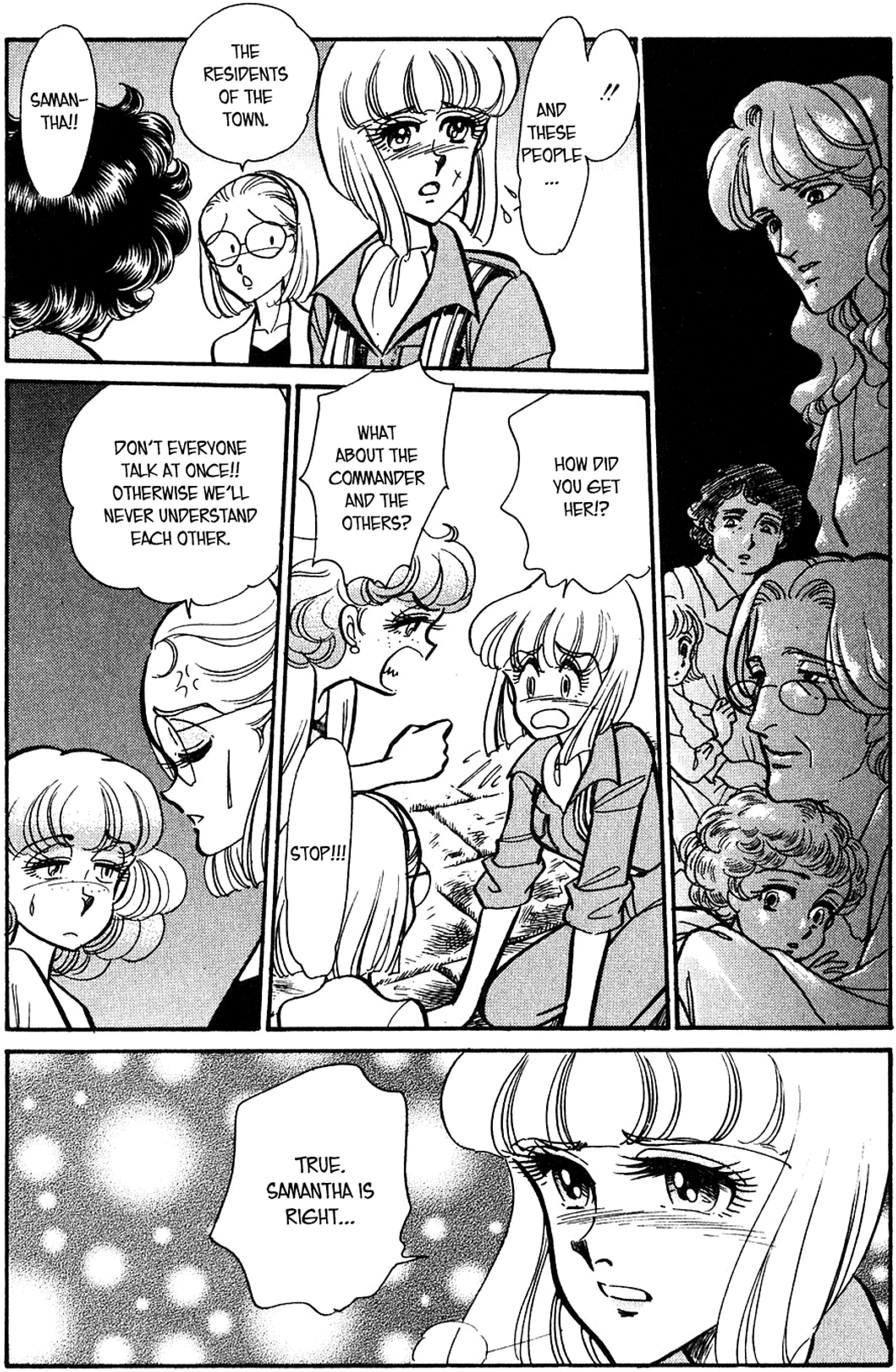

I'M NOT SURE WHAT BASIS WOMEN'S PROCEDURES IS...
I WAS ONCE A MOTHER MYSELF.
SOMETHING STRANGE HAS HAPPENED HERE. I FEEL IT IN MY BONES.
PLEASE!! CONTACT LUTSKA AND CONFIRM THAT YOUR FAMILIES ARE SAFE THERE.
HEY!! SOMEONE RUN OVER TO LUTSKA!!
......
......

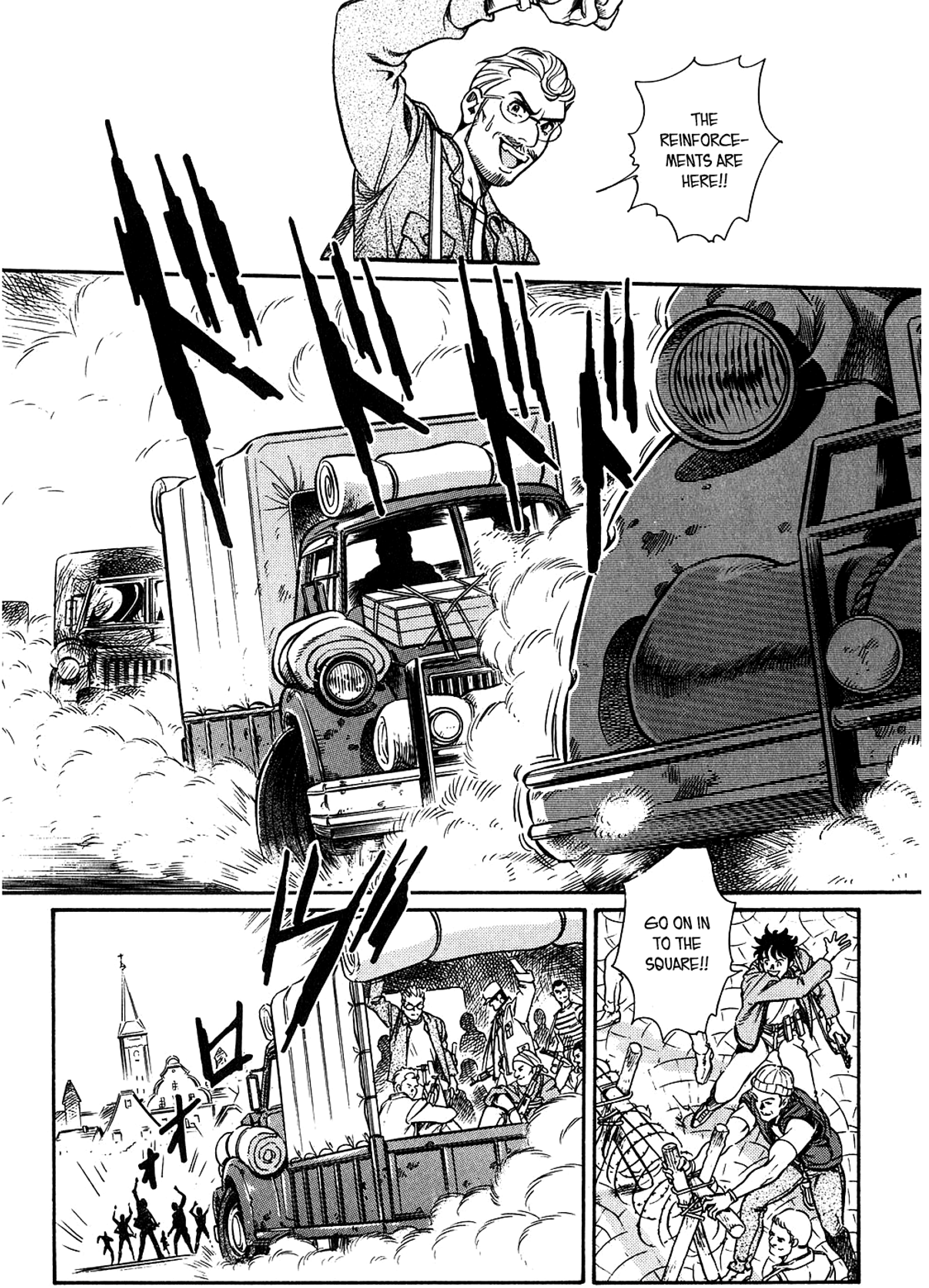

HERE
WHAT?
!
WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT A BMW?
THEY'RE ALL OVER EUROPE.
IT'S GOT A FRANKFURT PLATE.
AND IT'S A RENTAL CAR.
!


LOOK ON THE SEAT MAT IN THE REAR.
IT'S LIN'S DAGGER KNIFE!!

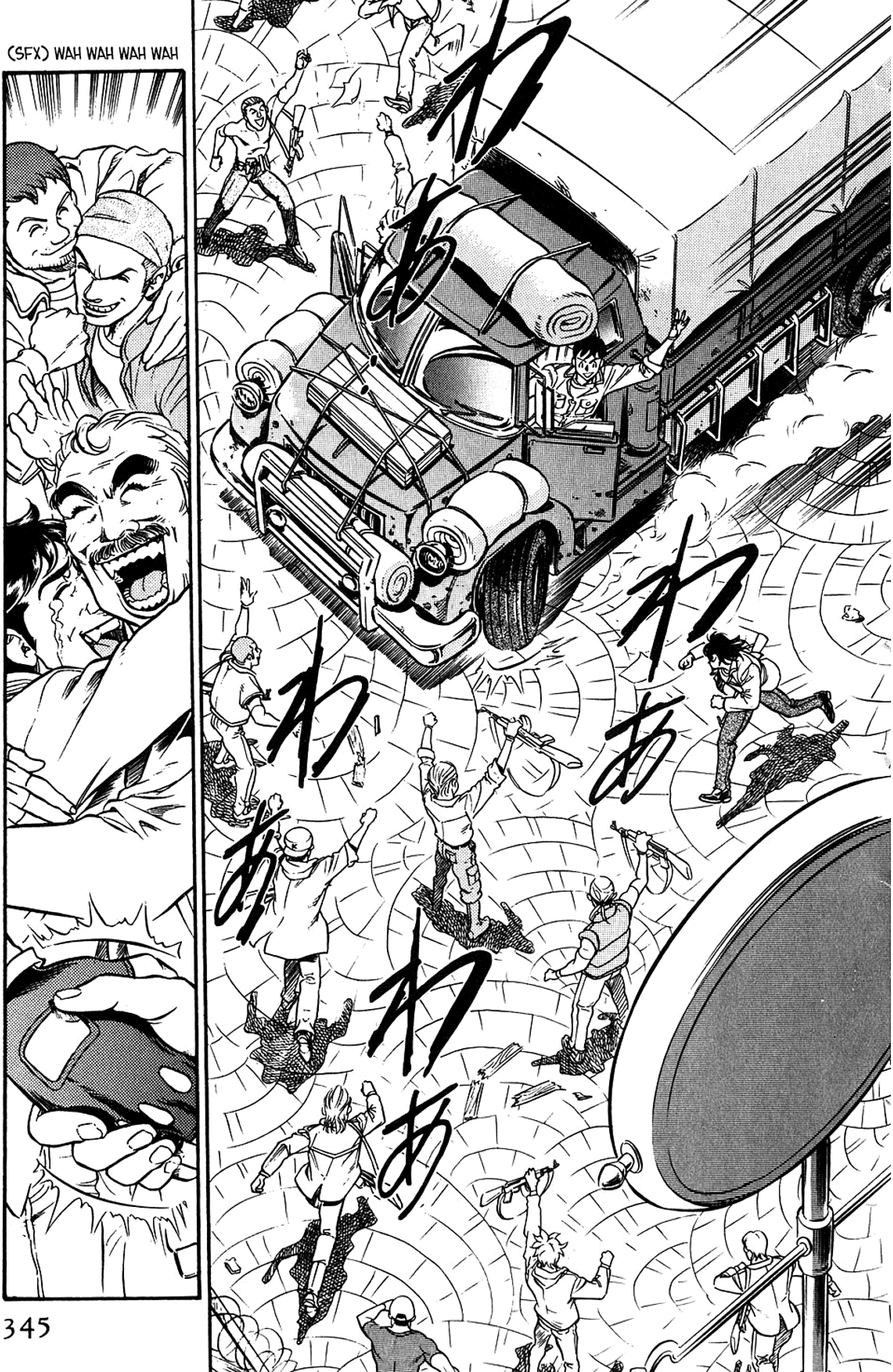

FINISH THEM OFF!?
WAIT!!
WE DON'T WANT BLOOD ALL OVER THE PLACE.
WHAT'S THIS? THESE GIRLS AREN'T ARMY SOLDIERS.
LET'S TAKE THEM TO THE UNDERGROUND SHRINE.
EITHER WAY, THEY'LL DIE.
UH-HUH
HIDE THE CAR EVEN FURTHER BACK.

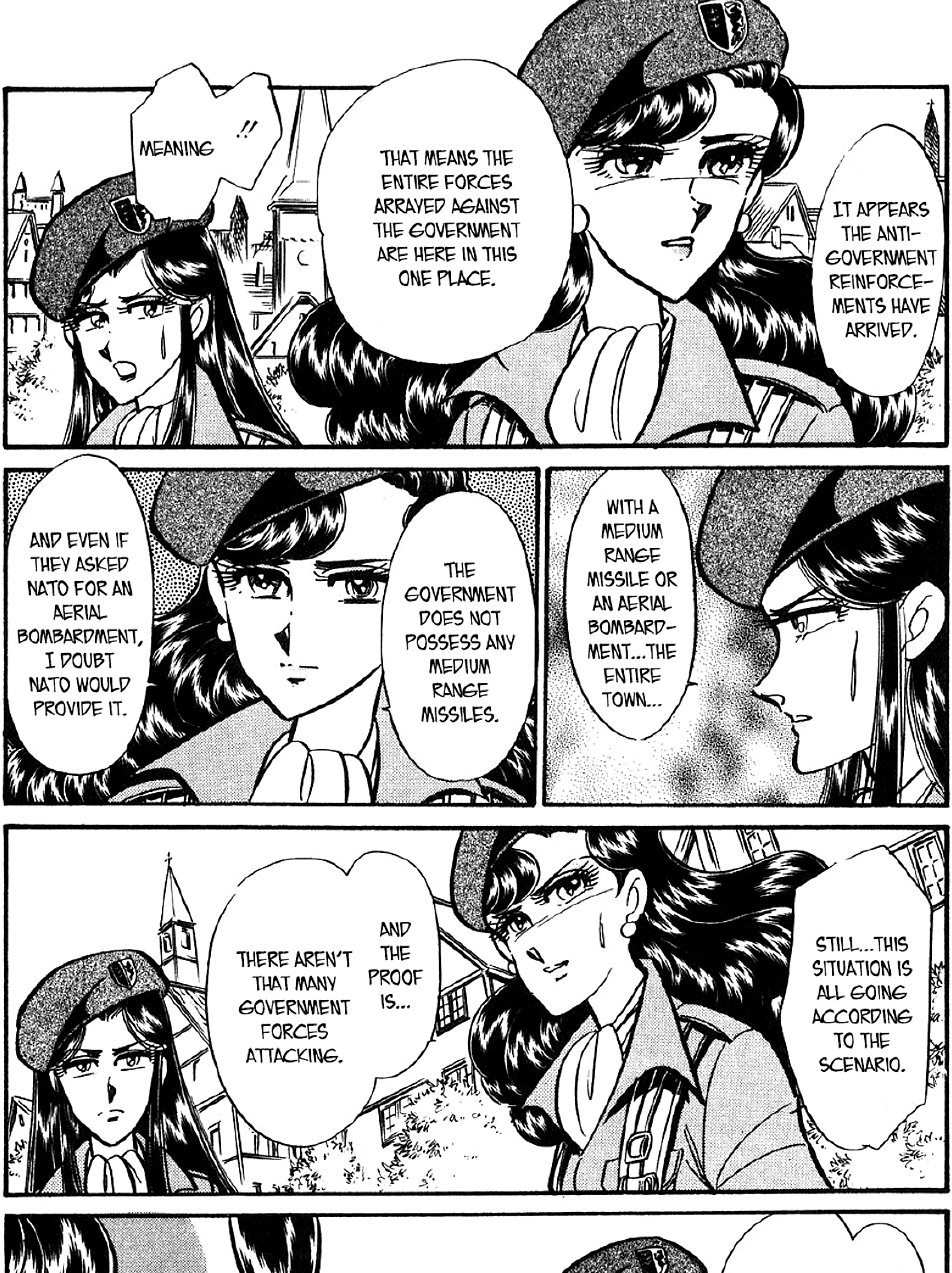

COLLEEN
KIM
UNH
COL-LEEN
UH
ARE YOU TWO ALRIGHT?
WHAT ABOUT THE COMMANDER!? HAS SHE ARRIVED UP ABOVE!?
OW...!!
IRENE!!
YOU'VE GOT A BUMP ON YOUR HEAD, KIM.
LIN...WHERE ARE WE?
WE ARE ABOUT THREE LEVELS BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE TOWN.
IN THE RUINS OF AN ANCIENT CHURCH.

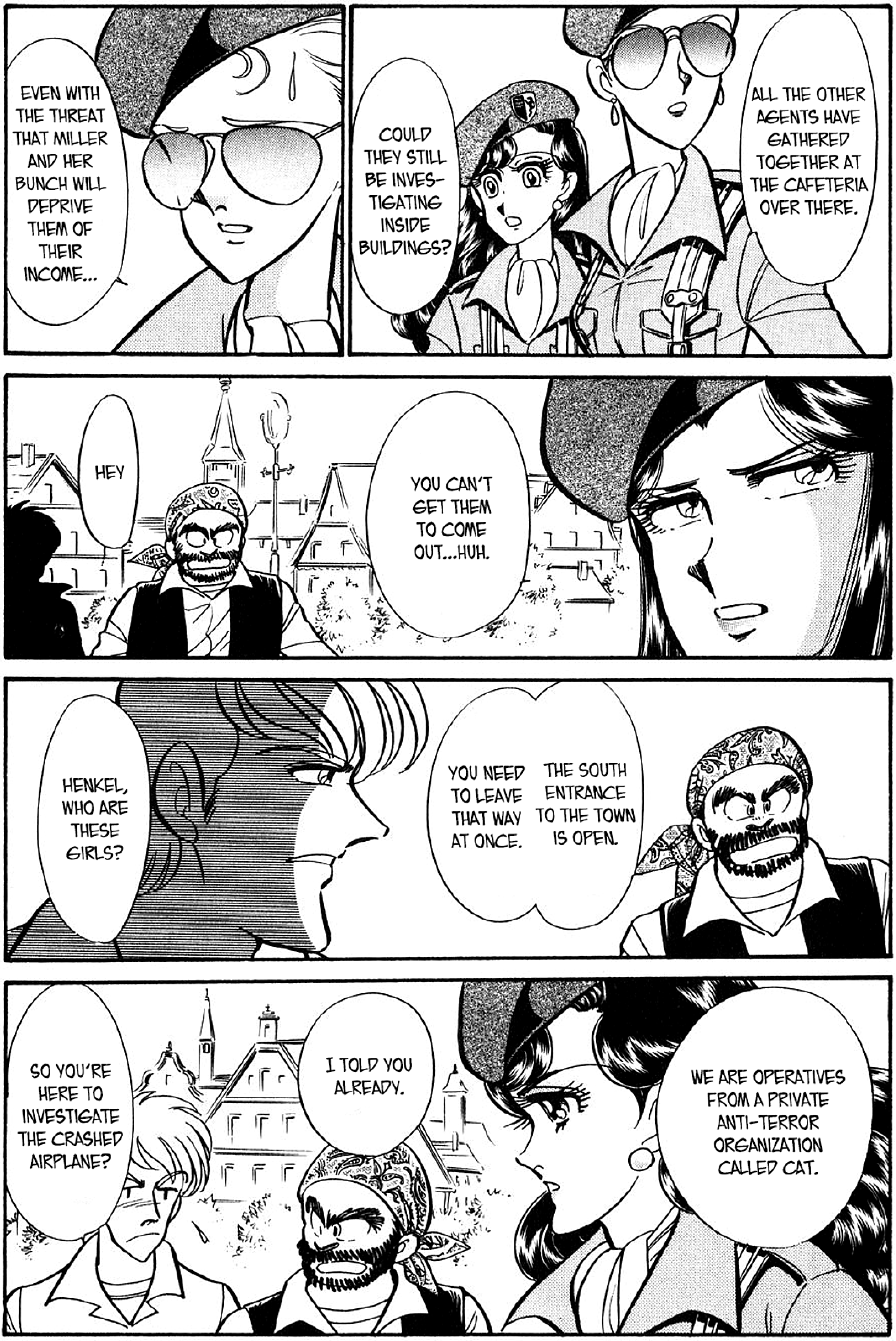

!!
AND THESE PEOPLE ...
THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN.
SAMAN-THA!!
HOW DID YOU GET HER!?
WHAT ABOUT THE COMMANDER AND THE OTHERS?
STOP!!!
DON'T EVERYONE TALK AT ONCE!! OTHERWISE WE'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.
TRUE. SAMANTHA IS RIGHT...

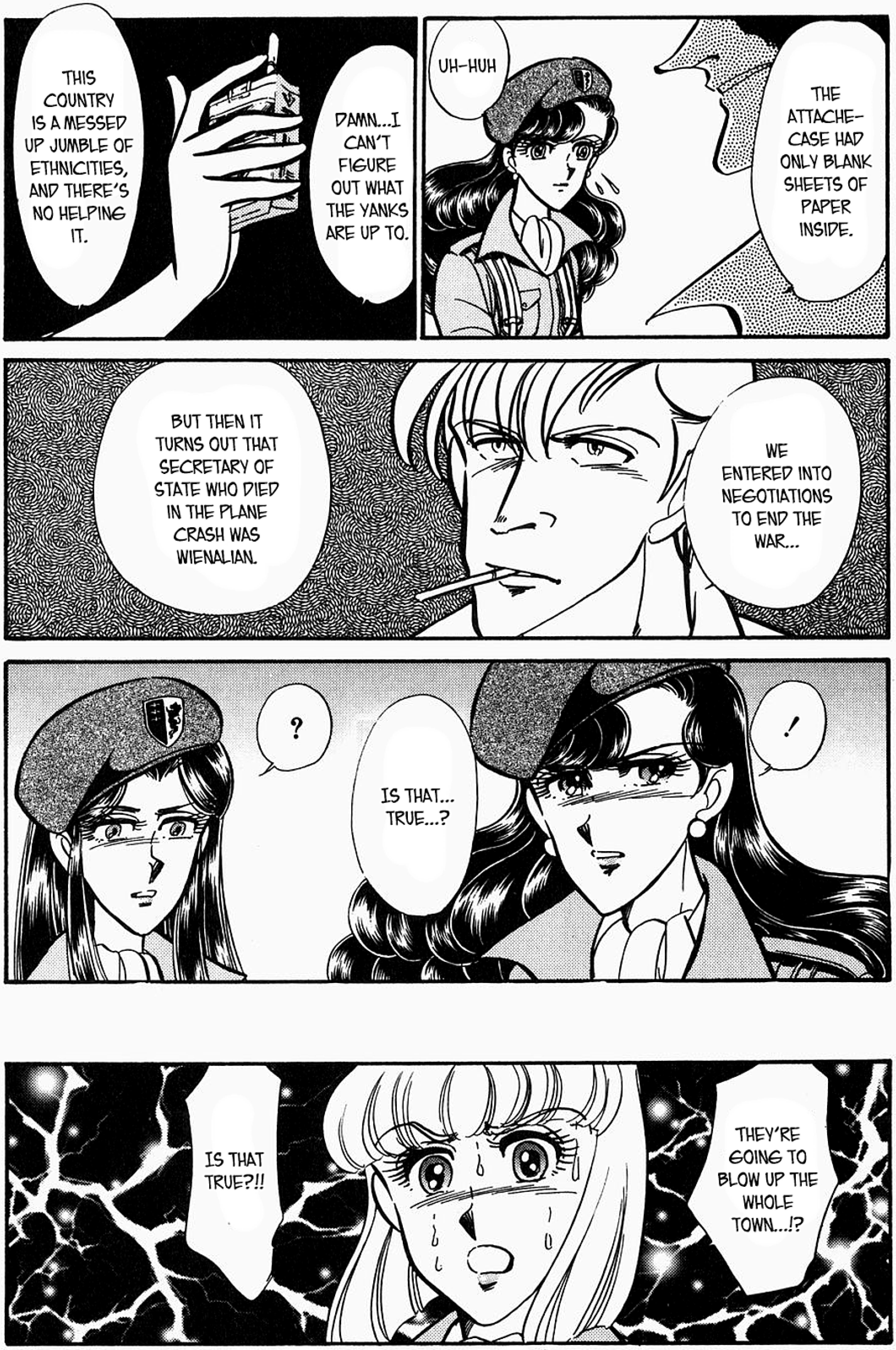

THE REINFORCEMENTS ARE HERE!!
ドドドド
GO ON IN TO THE SQUARE!!

(SFX) WAH WAH WAH WAH




IT APPEARS THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT REINFORCEMENTS HAVE ARRIVED.
THAT MEANS THE ENTIRE FORCES ARRAYED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT ARE HERE IN THIS ONE PLACE.
MEANING !!
WITH A MEDIUM RANGE MISSILE OR AN AERIAL BOMBARDMENT...THE ENTIRE TOWN...
THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT POSSESS ANY MEDIUM RANGE MISSILES.
AND EVEN IF THEY ASKED NATO FOR AN AERIAL BOMBARDMENT, I DOUBT NATO WOULD PROVIDE IT.
STILL...THIS SITUATION IS ALL GOING ACCORDING TO THE SCENARIO.
AND THE PROOF IS...
THERE AREN'T THAT MANY GOVERNMENT FORCES ATTACKING.
COMMANDER!!
WE CAN'T FIND COLLEEN OR KIM.

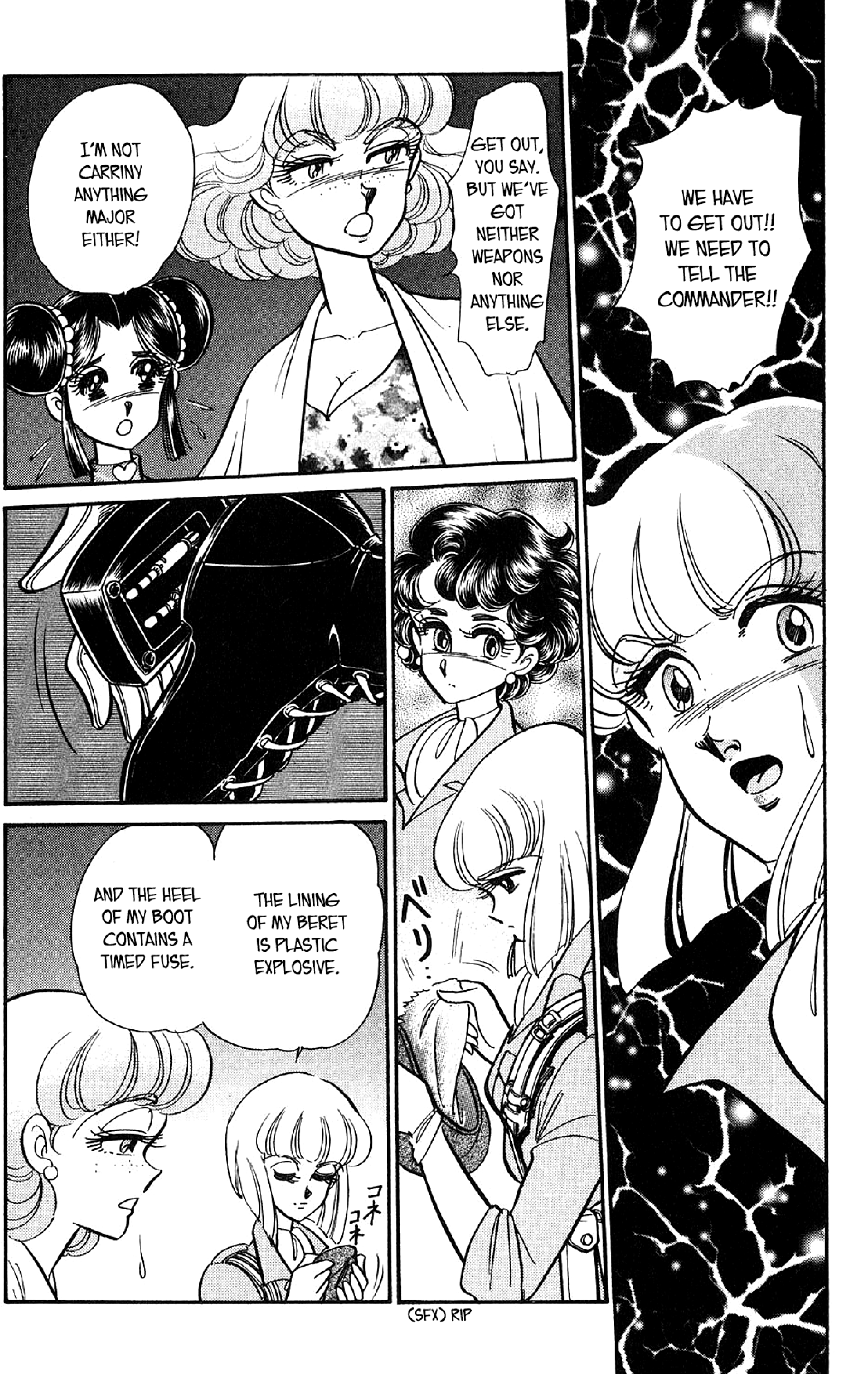

ALL THE OTHER AGENTS HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER AT THE CAFETERIA OVER THERE.
COULD THEY STILL BE INVESTIGATING INSIDE BUILDINGS?
EVEN WITH THE THREAT THAT MILLER AND HER BUNCH WILL DEPRIVE THEM OF THEIR INCOME...
YOU CAN'T GET THEM TO COME OUT...HUH.
HEY
THE SOUTH ENTRANCE TO THE TOWN IS OPEN.
YOU NEED TO LEAVE THAT WAY AT ONCE.
HENKEL, WHO ARE THESE GIRLS?
WE ARE OPERATIVES FROM A PRIVATE ANTI-TERROR ORGANIZATION CALLED CAT.
I TOLD YOU ALREADY.
SO YOU'RE HERE TO INVESTIGATE THE CRASHED AIRPLANE?


THE ATTACHE-CASE HAD ONLY BLANK SHEETS OF PAPER INSIDE.
UH-HUH
DAMN...I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT THE YANKS ARE UP TO.
THIS COUNTRY IS A MESSED UP JUMBLE OF ETHNICITIES, AND THERE'S NO HELPING IT.
WE ENTERED INTO NEGOTIATIONS TO END THE WAR...
BUT THEN IT TURNS OUT THAT SECRETARY OF STATE WHO DIED IN THE PLANE CRASH WAS WIENALIAN.
!
IS THAT... TRUE...?
?
THEY'RE GOING TO BLOW UP THE WHOLE TOWN...!?
IS THAT TRUE?!!

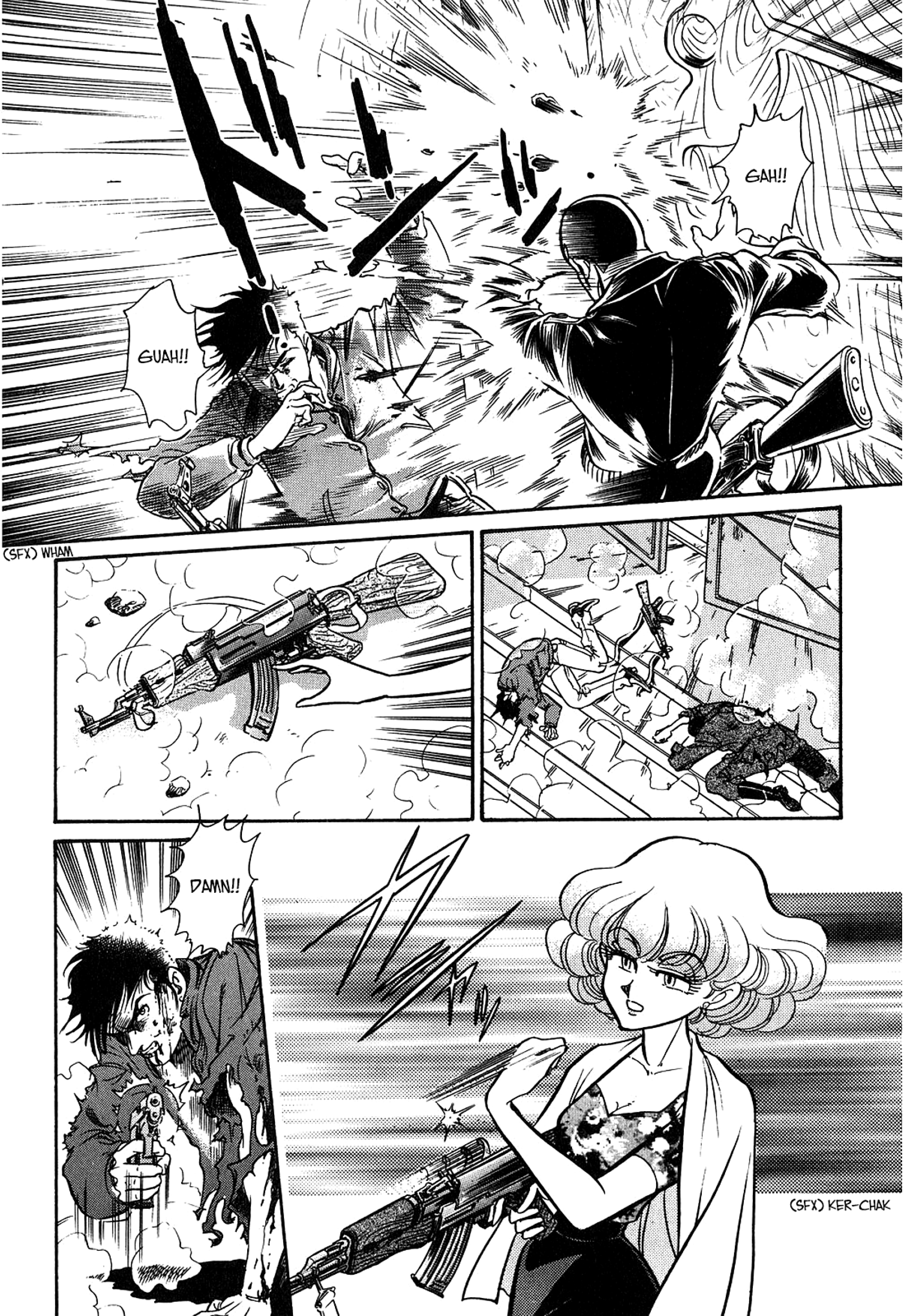
砂の薔薇

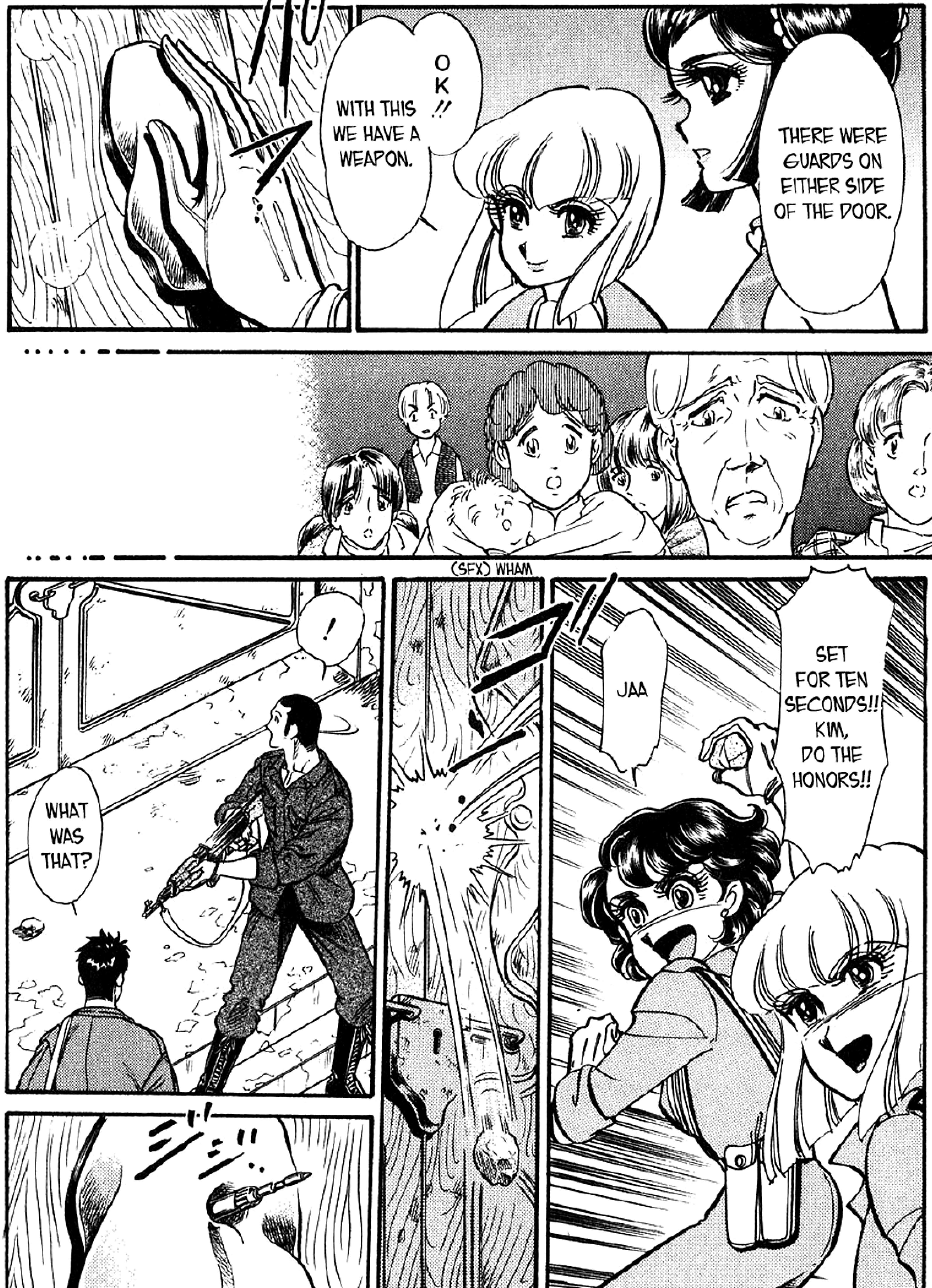
デザートローズ

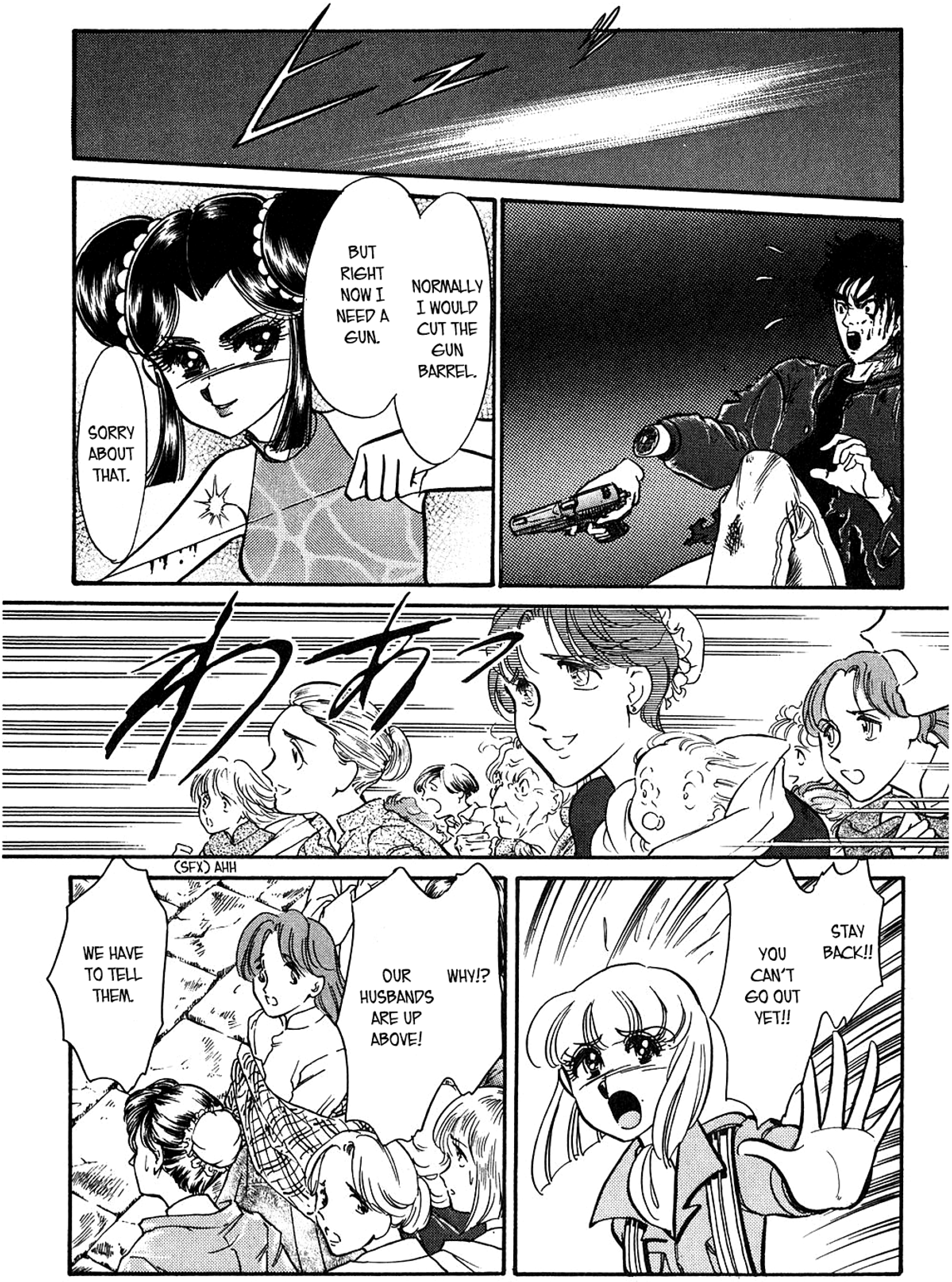
File 25:
Double Spade (12)

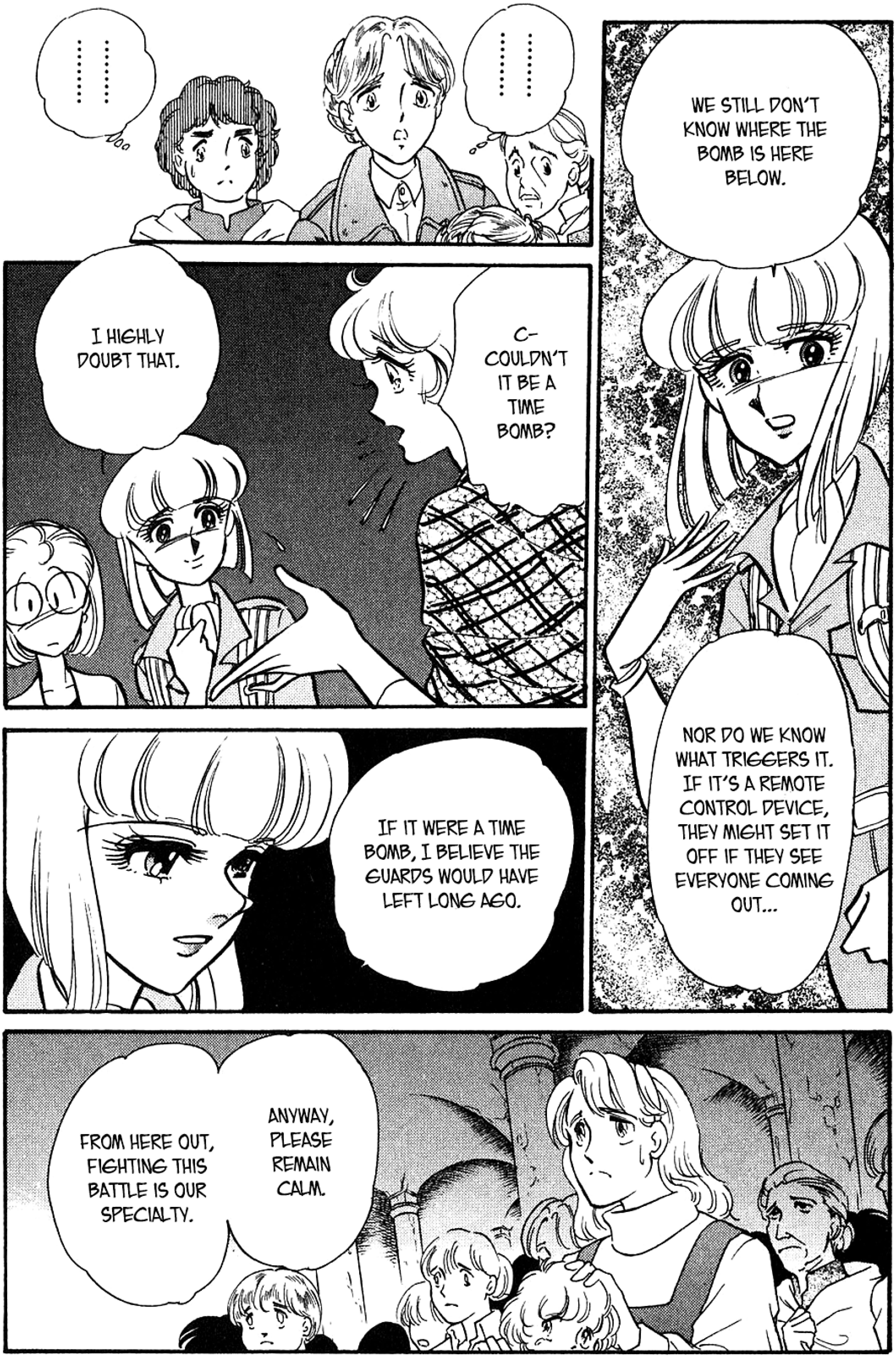

WE HAVE TO GET OUT!! WE NEED TO TELL THE COMMANDER!!
GET OUT, YOU SAY. BUT WE'VE GOT NEITHER WEAPONS NOR ANYTHING ELSE.
I'M NOT CARRINY ANYTHING MAJOR EITHER!
ベリ…
THE LINING OF MY BERET IS PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE.
AND THE HEEL OF MY BOOT CONTAINS A TIMED FUSE.
コネコネ

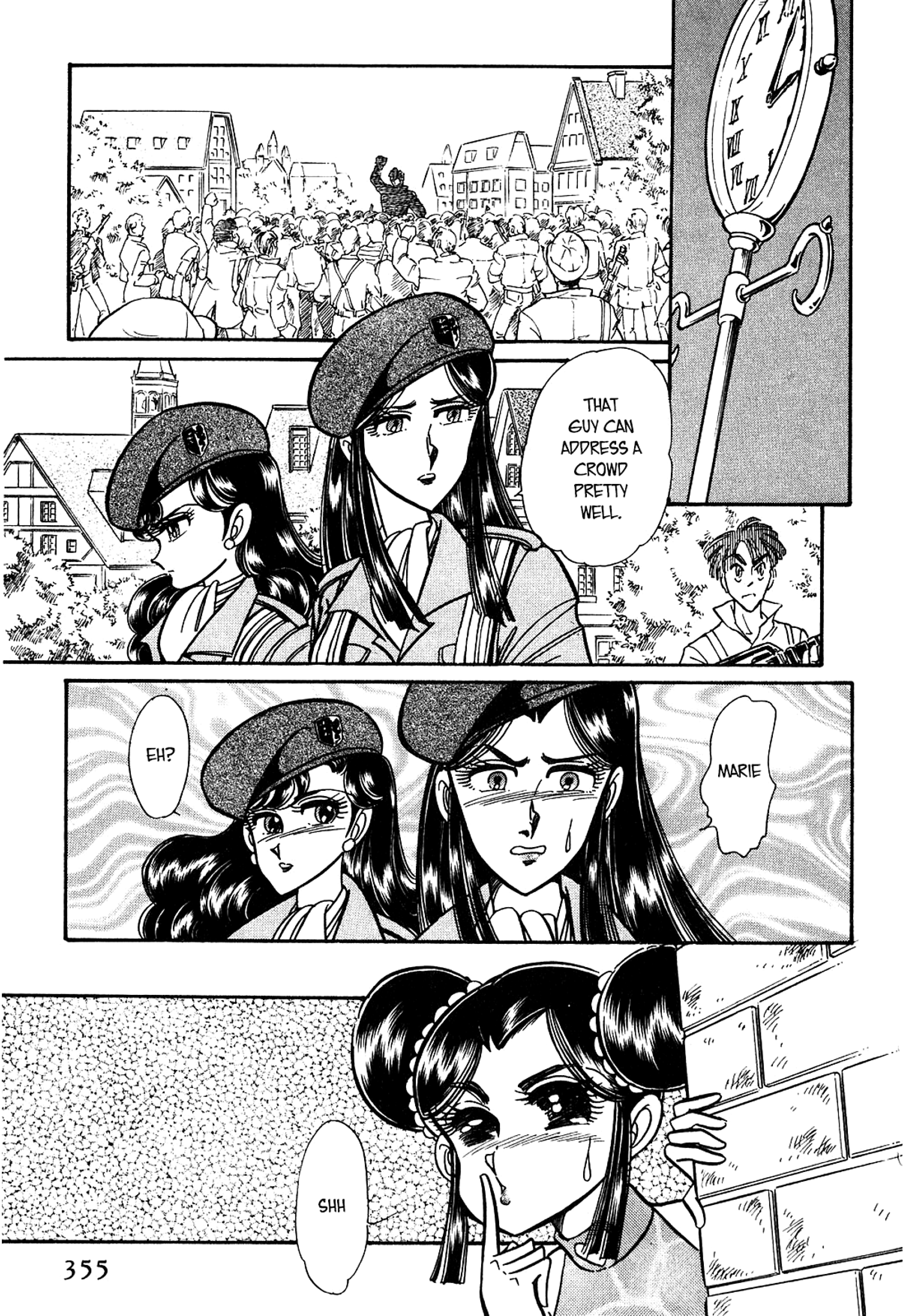
(SFX) RIP

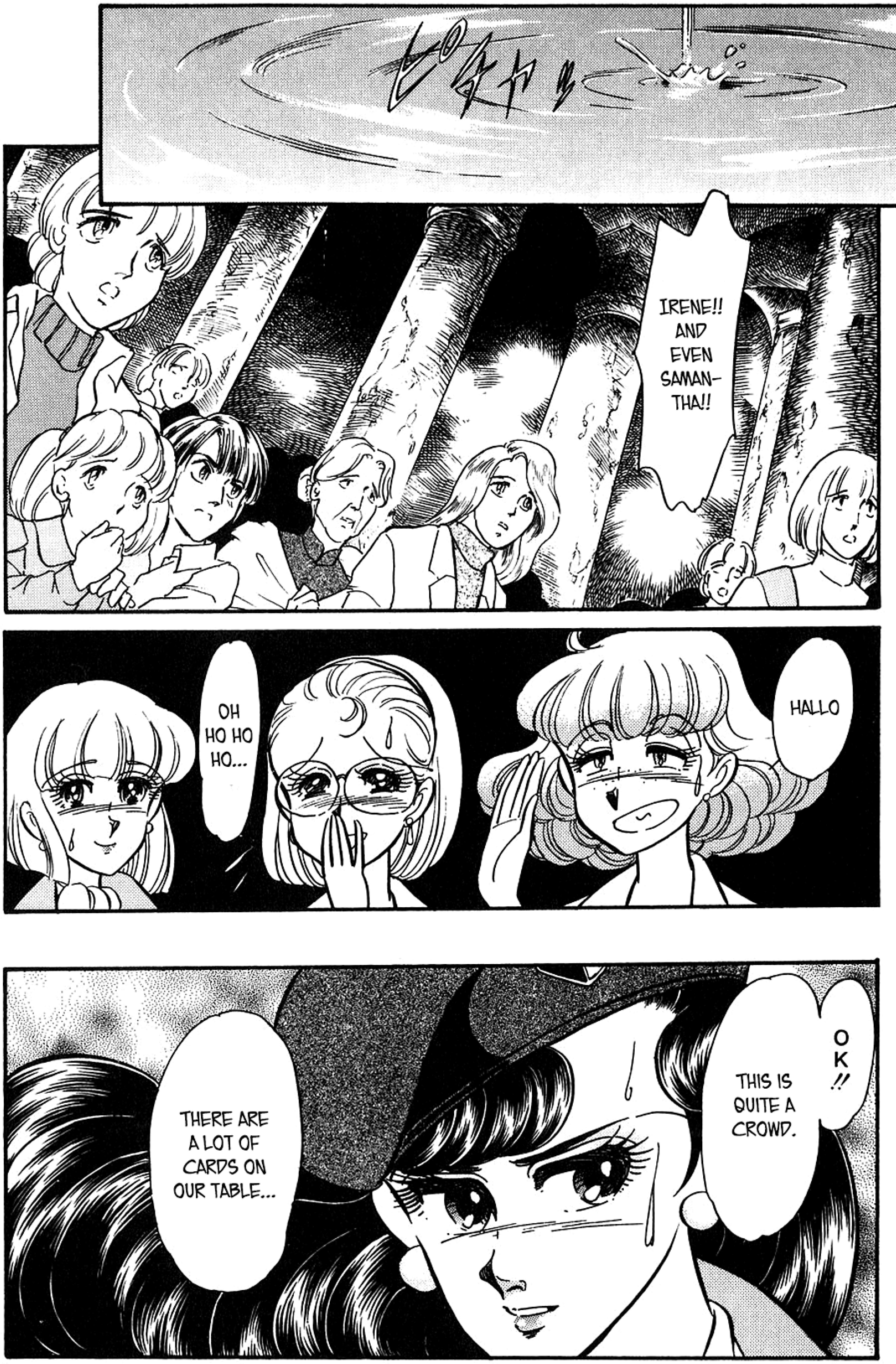

GAH!!
GUAH!!
(SFX) WHAM
DAMN!!
(SFX) KER-CHAK

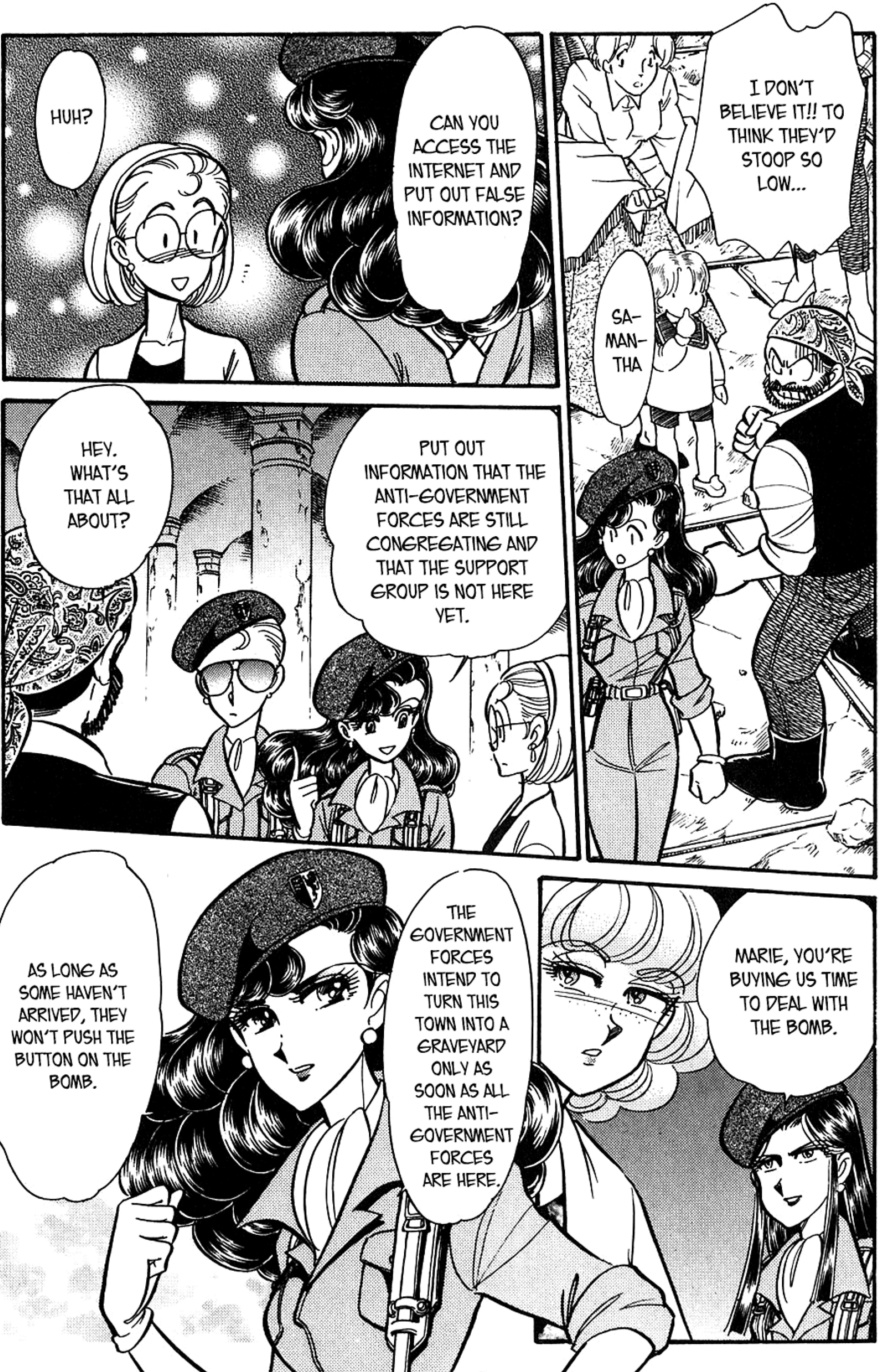

THERE WERE GUARDS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE DOOR.
OK!!
WITH THIS WE HAVE A WEAPON.
SET FOR TEN SECONDS!! KIM, DO THE HONORS!!
JAA
(SFX) WHAM
!
WHAT WAS THAT?

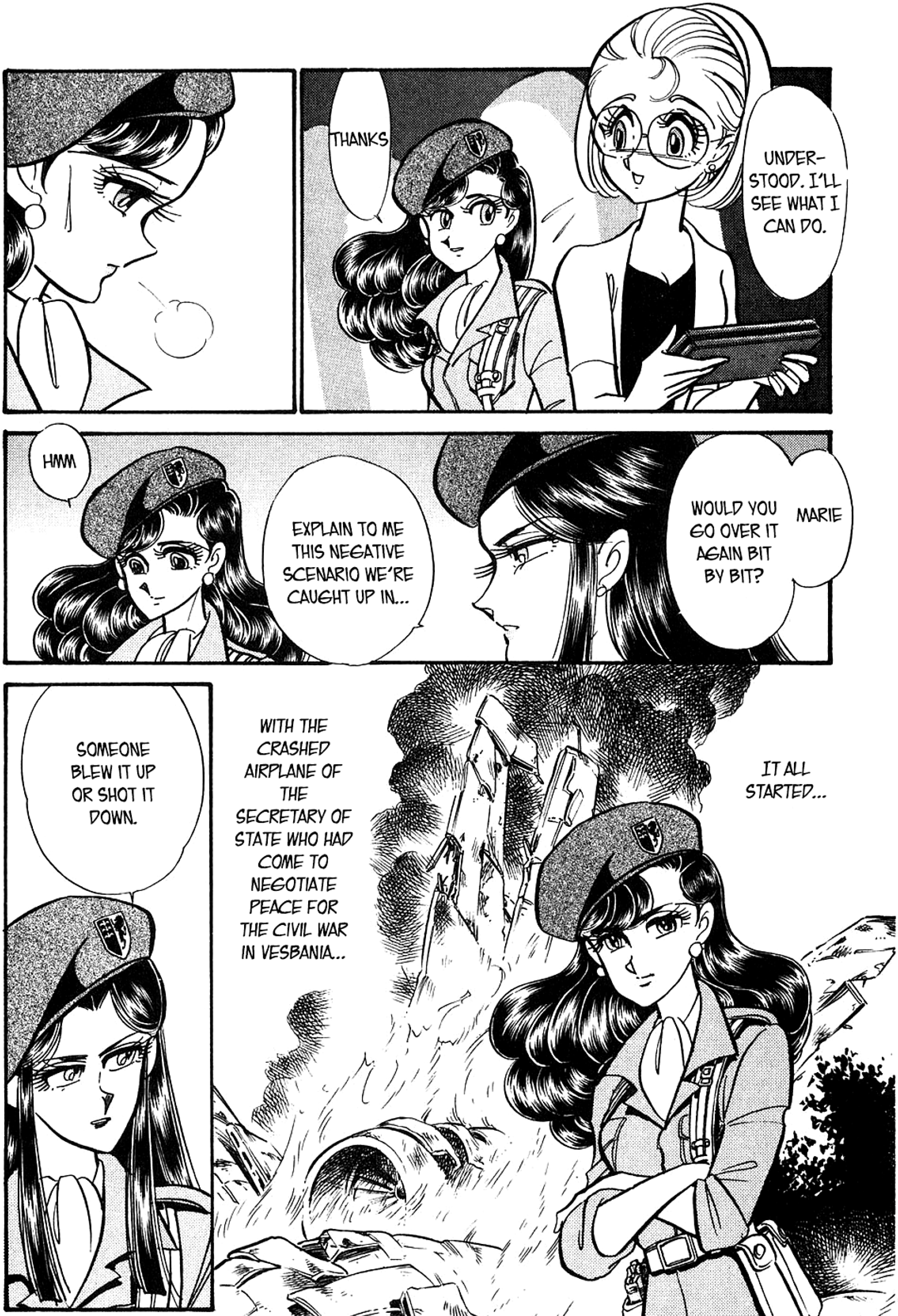

ヒュッ
NORMALLY I WOULD CUT THE GUN BARREL.
BUT RIGHT NOW I NEED A GUN.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
わあっ
(SFX) AHH
STAY BACK!!
YOU CAN'T GO OUT YET!!
WHY!?
OUR HUSBANDS ARE UP ABOVE!
WE HAVE TO TELL THEM.

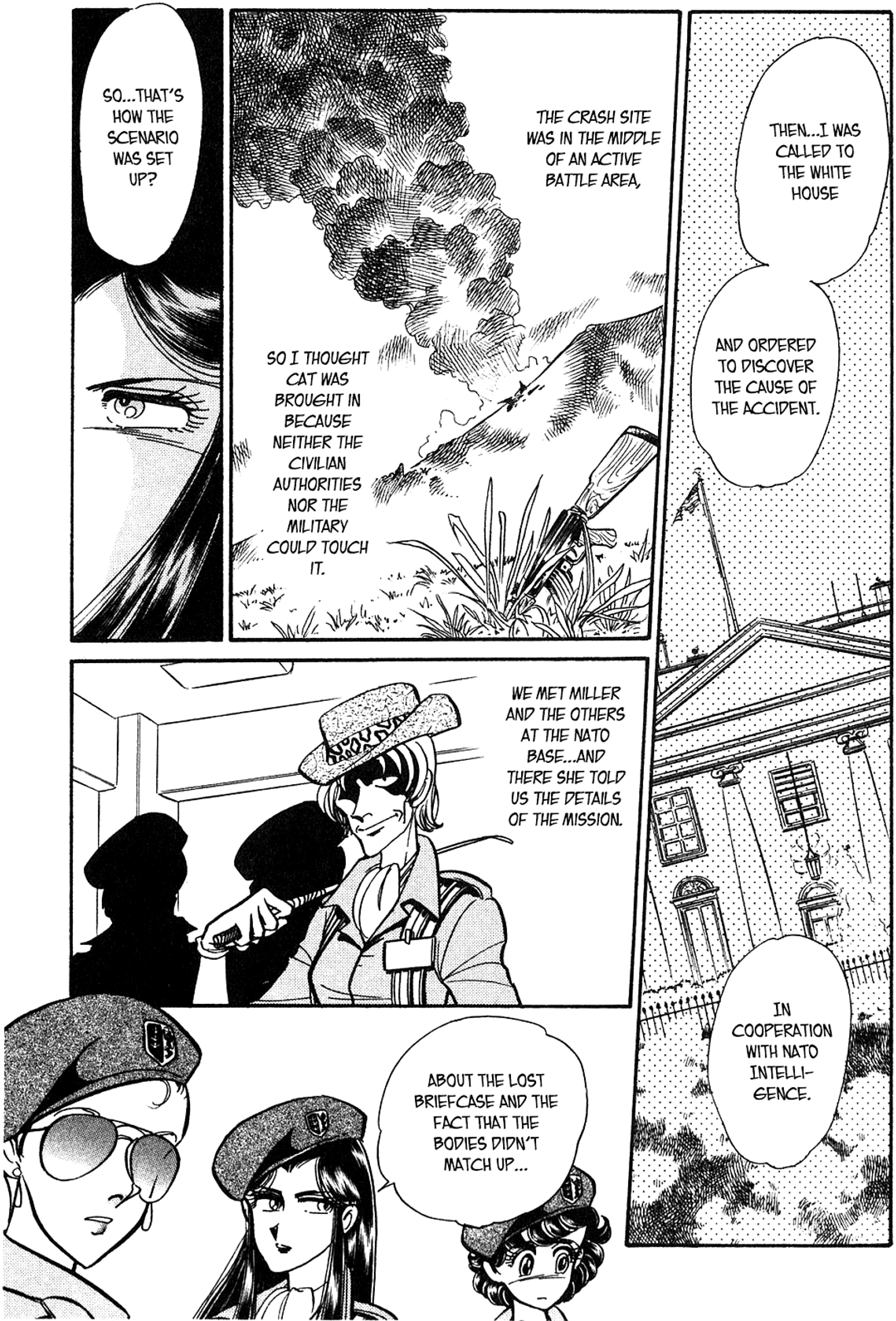

WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE THE BOMB IS HERE BELOW.
NOR DO WE KNOW WHAT TRIGGERS IT. IF IT'S A REMOTE CONTROL DEVICE, THEY MIGHT SET IT OFF IF THEY SEE EVERYONE COMING OUT...
……
……
C-COULDN'T IT BE A TIME BOMB?
I HIGHLY DOUBT THAT.
IF IT WERE A TIME BOMB, I BELIEVE THE GUARDS WOULD HAVE LEFT LONG AGO.
ANYWAY, PLEASE REMAIN CALM.
FROM HERE OUT, FIGHTING THIS BATTLE IS OUR SPECIALTY.

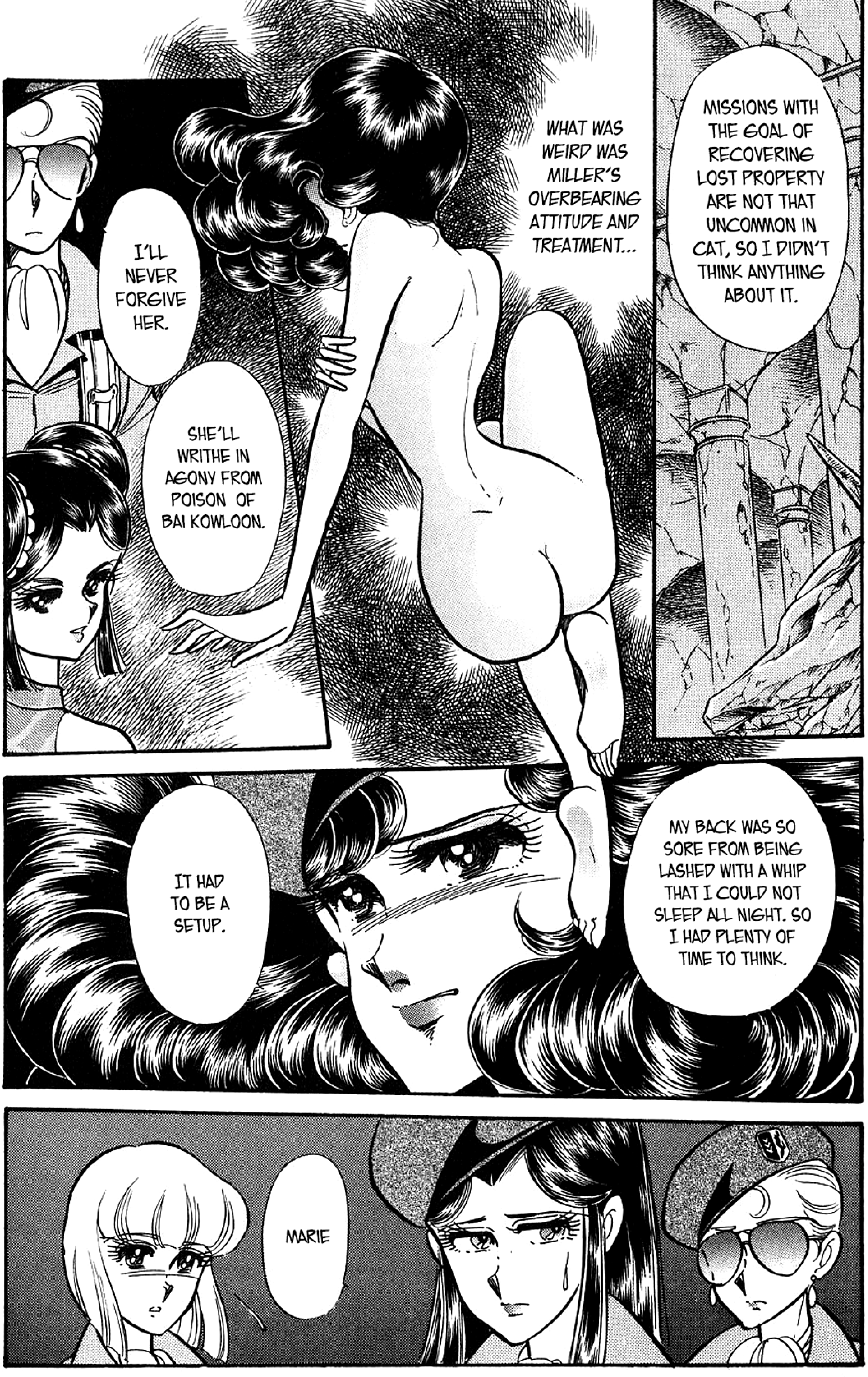

THAT GUY CAN ADDRESS A CROWD PRETTY WELL.
MARIE
EH?
SHH

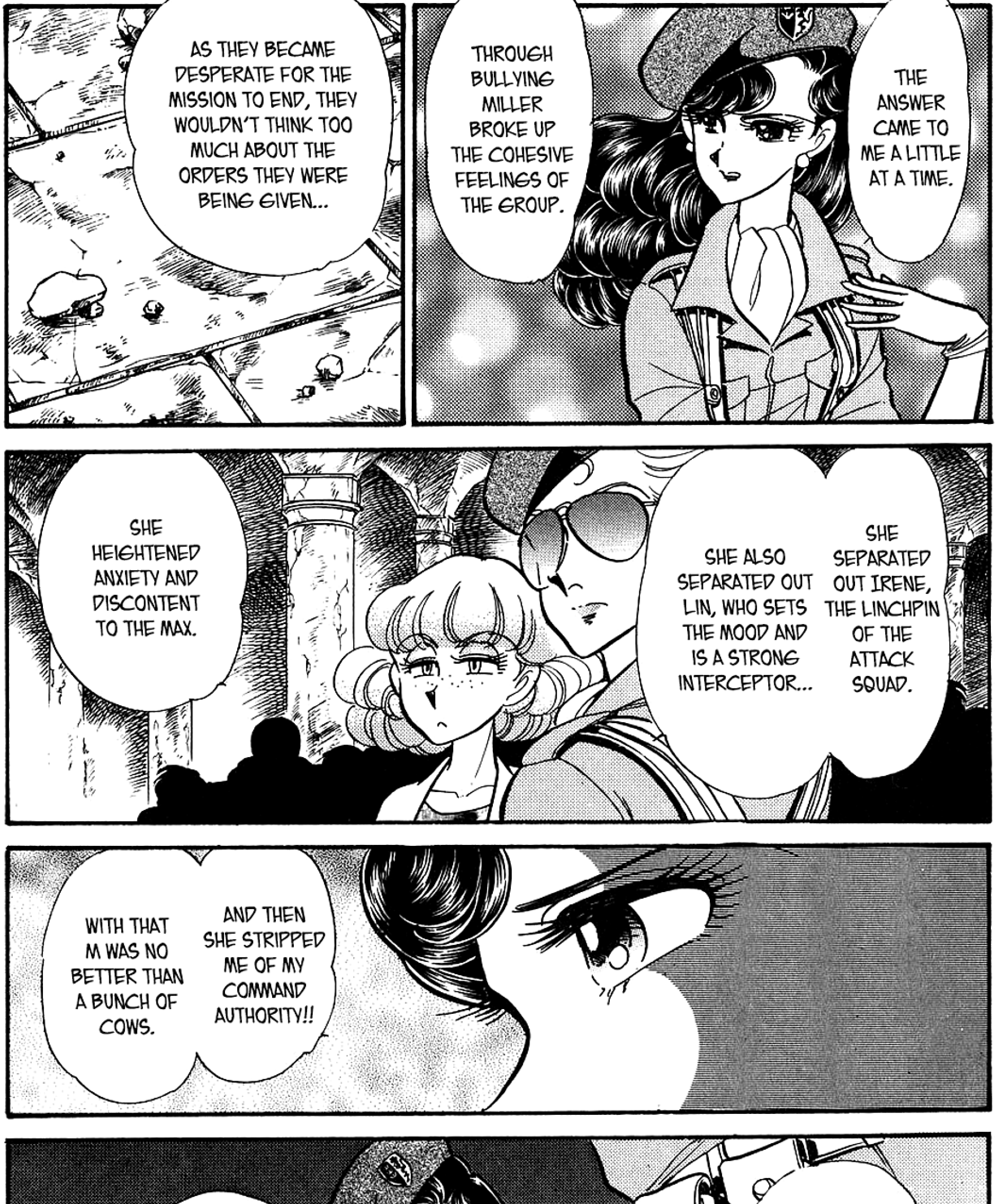

ピチャッ!!
IRENE!! AND EVEN SAMANTHA!!
HALLO
OH HO HO HO...
OK!!
THIS IS QUITE A CROWD.
THERE ARE A LOT OF CARDS ON OUR TABLE...

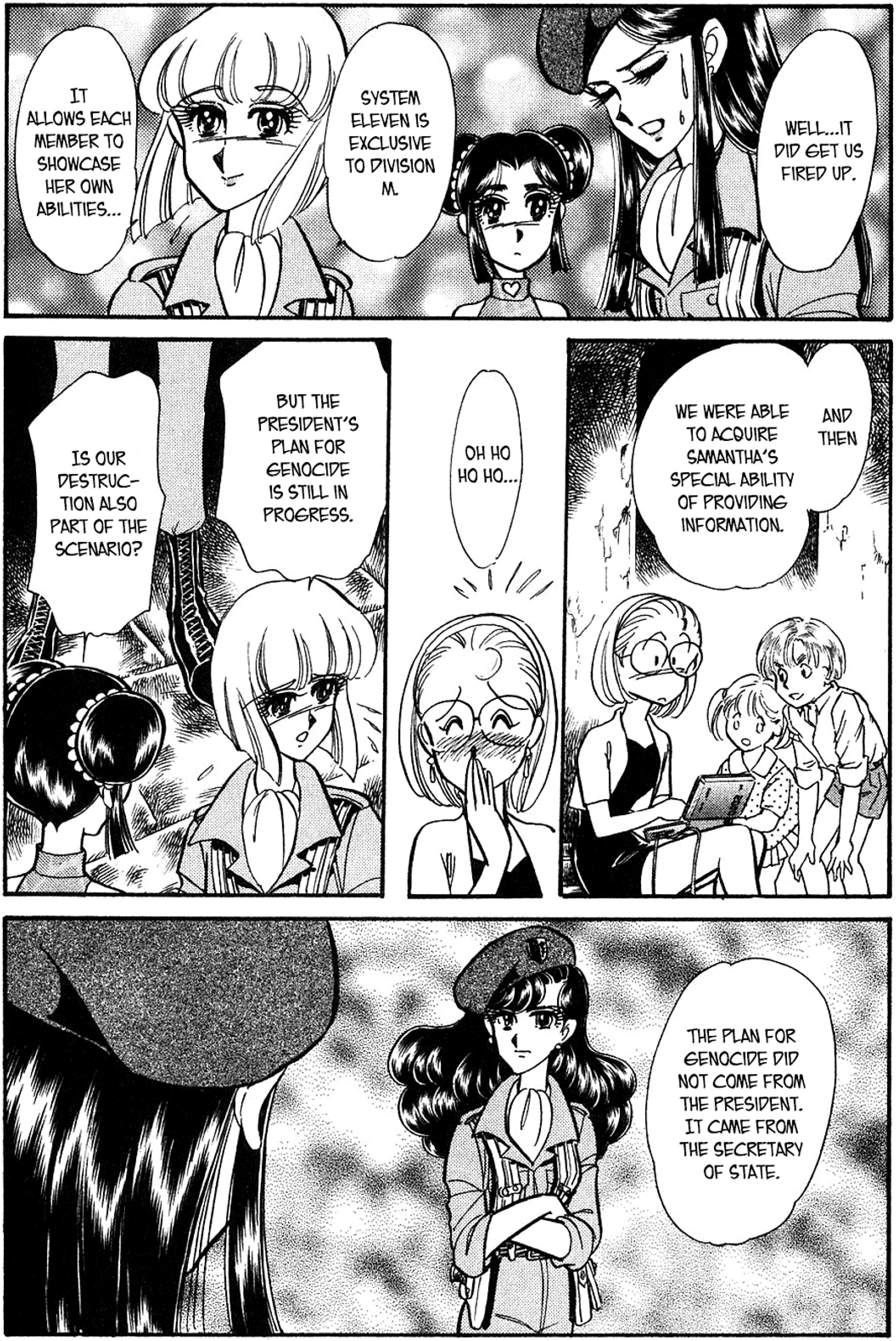

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!! TO THINK THEY'D STOOP SO LOW...
SA-MAN-THA
CAN YOU ACCESS THE INTERNET AND PUT OUT FALSE INFORMATION?
HUH?
PUT OUT INFORMATION THAT THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE STILL CONGREGATING AND THAT THE SUPPORT GROUP IS NOT HERE YET.
HEY. WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?
MARIE, YOU'RE BUYING US TIME TO DEAL WITH THE BOMB.
THE GOVERNMENT FORCES INTEND TO TURN THIS TOWN INTO A GRAVEYARD ONLY AS SOON AS ALL THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE HERE.
AS LONG AS SOME HAVEN'T ARRIVED, THEY WON'T PUSH THE BUTTON ON THE BOMB.


UNDERSTOOD. I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
THANKS
MARIE
WOULD YOU GO OVER IT AGAIN BIT BY BIT?
EXPLAIN TO ME THIS NEGATIVE SCENARIO WE'RE CAUGHT UP IN...
HMM
IT ALL STARTED...
WITH THE CRASHED AIRPLANE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE WHO HAD COME TO NEGOTIATE PEACE FOR THE CIVIL WAR IN VESBANIA...
SOMEONE BLEW IT UP OR SHOT IT DOWN.


THEN...I WAS CALLED TO THE WHITE HOUSE
AND ORDERED TO DISCOVER THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT.
IN COOPERATION WITH NATO INTELLIGENCE.
THE CRASH SITE WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ACTIVE BATTLE AREA,
SO I THOUGHT CAT WAS BROUGHT IN BECAUSE NEITHER THE CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES NOR THE MILITARY COULD TOUCH IT.
SO...THAT'S HOW THE SCENARIO WAS SET UP?
WE MET MILLER AND THE OTHERS AT THE NATO BASE...AND THERE SHE TOLD US THE DETAILS OF THE MISSION.
ABOUT THE LOST BRIEFCASE AND THE FACT THAT THE BODIES DIDN'T MATCH UP...


MISSIONS WITH THE GOAL OF RECOVERING LOST PROPERTY ARE NOT THAT UNCOMMON IN CAT, SO I DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
WHAT WAS WEIRD WAS MILLER'S OVERBEARING ATTITUDE AND TREATMENT...
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HER.
SHE'LL WRITHE IN AGONY FROM POISON OF BAI KOWLOON.
MY BACK WAS SO SORE FROM BEING LASHED WITH A WHIP THAT I COULD NOT SLEEP ALL NIGHT. SO I HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO THINK.
IT HAD TO BE A SETUP.
MARIE

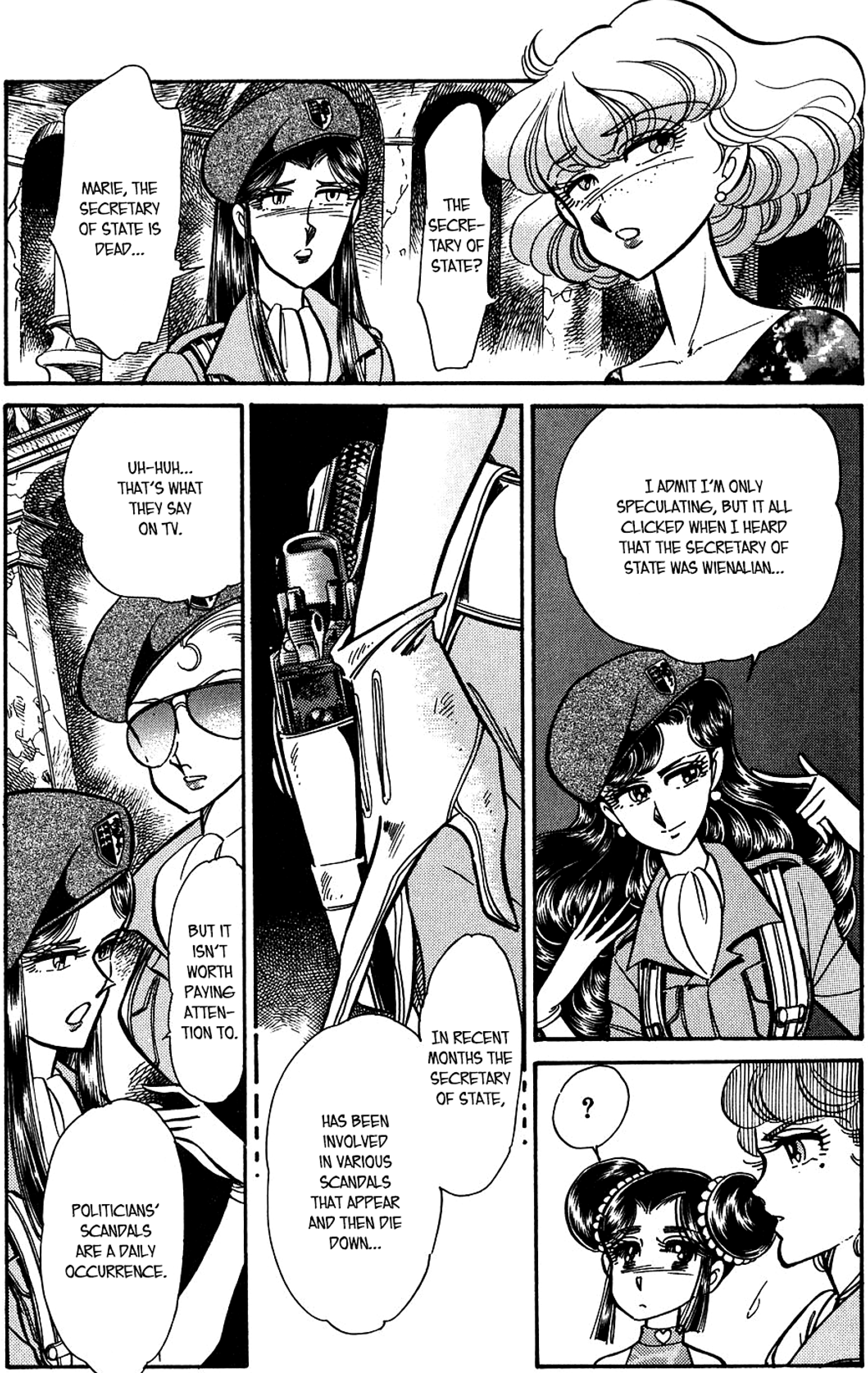

THE ANSWER CAME TO ME A LITTLE AT A TIME.
THROUGH BULLYING MILLER BROKE UP THE COHESIVE FEELINGS OF THE GROUP.
AS THEY BECAME DESPERATE FOR THE MISSION TO END, THEY WOULDN'T THINK TOO MUCH ABOUT THE ORDERS THEY WERE BEING GIVEN...
SHE SEPARATED OUT IRENE, THE LINCHPIN OF THE ATTACK SQUAD.
SHE ALSO SEPARATED OUT LIN, WHO SETS THE MOOD AND IS A STRONG INTERCEPTOR...
SHE HEIGHTENED ANXIETY AND DISCONTENT TO THE MAX.
AND THEN SHE STRIPPED ME OF MY COMMAND AUTHORITY!!
WITH THAT M WAS NO BETTER THAN A BUNCH OF COWS.
I THOUGHT THE SITUATION HAD GOTTEN OUT OF HAND.
SO YOU IMPLEMENTED SYSTEM ELEVEN.

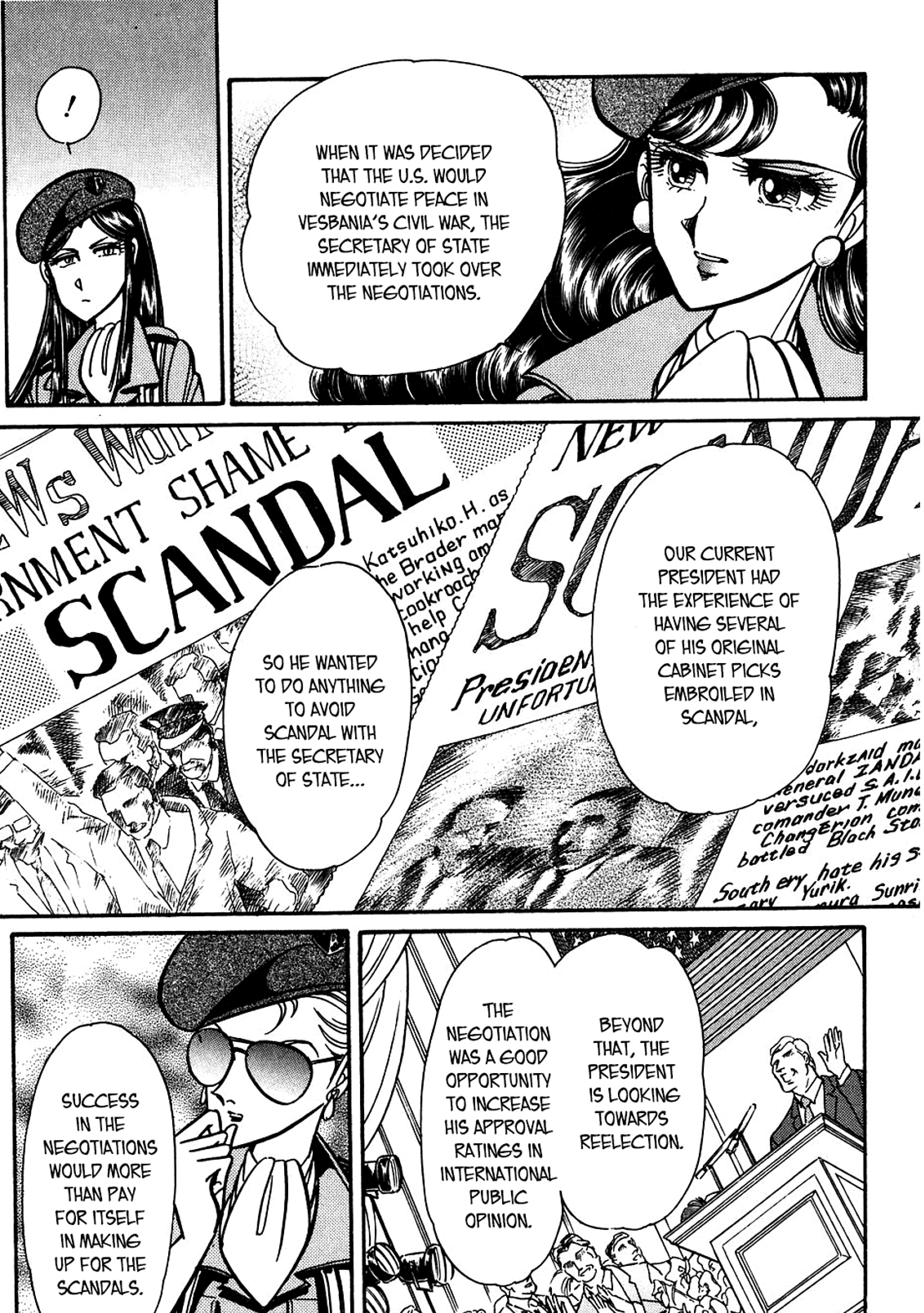

WELL...IT DID GET US FIRED UP.
SYSTEM ELEVEN IS EXCLUSIVE TO DIVISION M.
IT ALLOWS EACH MEMBER TO SHOWCASE HER OWN ABILITIES...
AND THEN
WE WERE ABLE TO ACQUIRE SAMANTHA'S SPECIAL ABILITY OF PROVIDING INFORMATION.
OH HO HO HO...
BUT THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN FOR GENOCIDE IS STILL IN PROGRESS.
IS OUR DESTRUCTION ALSO PART OF THE SCENARIO?
THE PLAN FOR GENOCIDE DID NOT COME FROM THE PRESIDENT. IT CAME FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

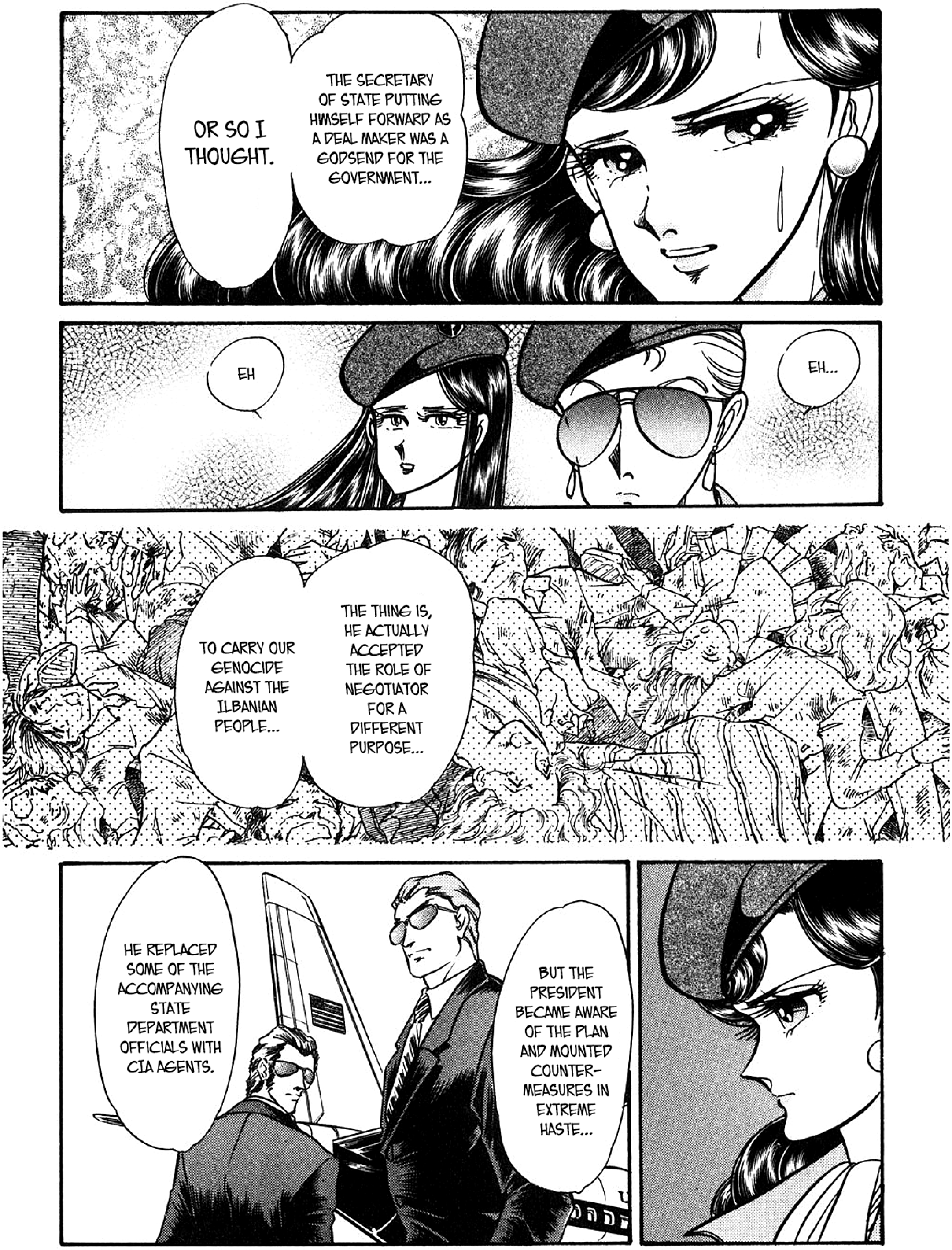
砂の薔薇

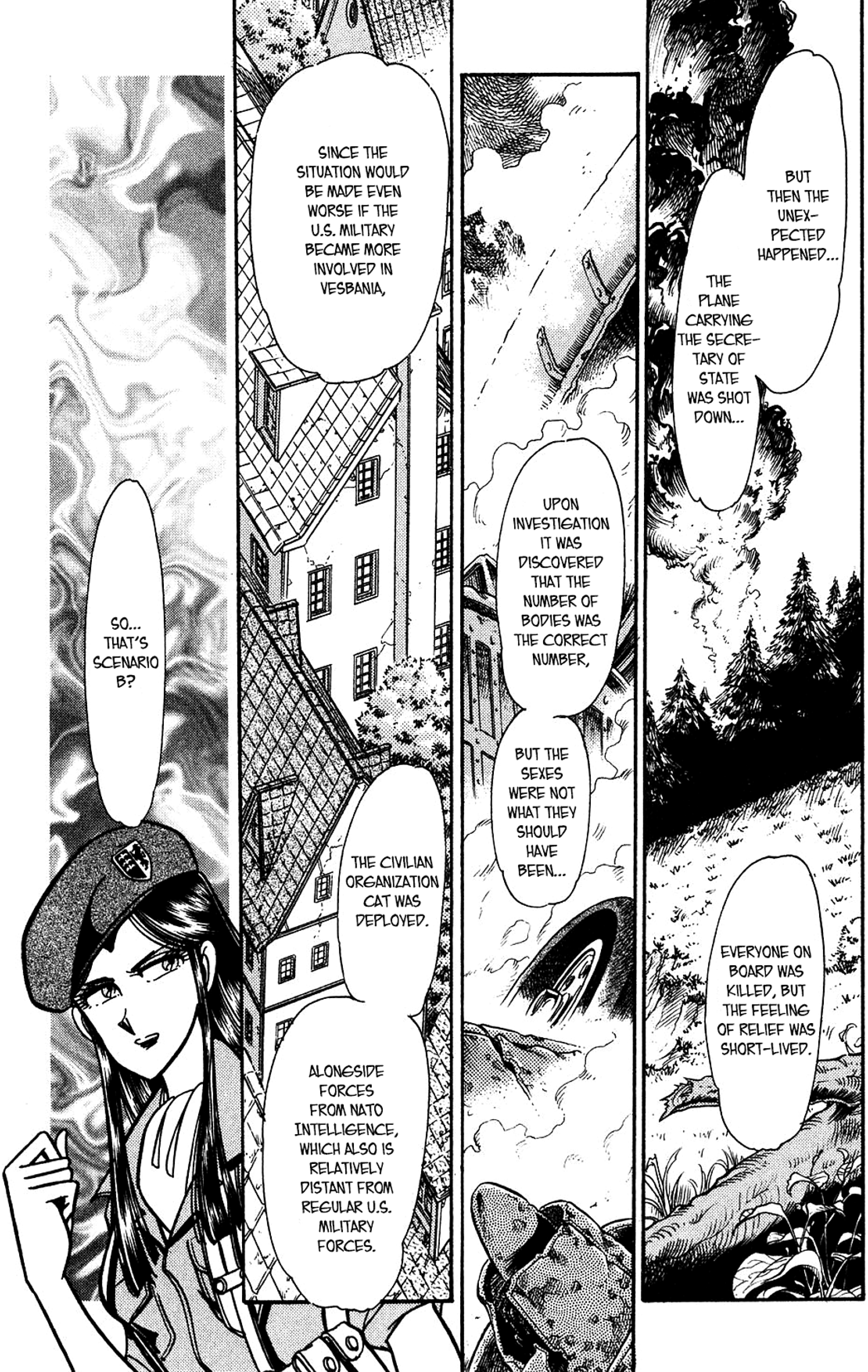
デザート・ローズ

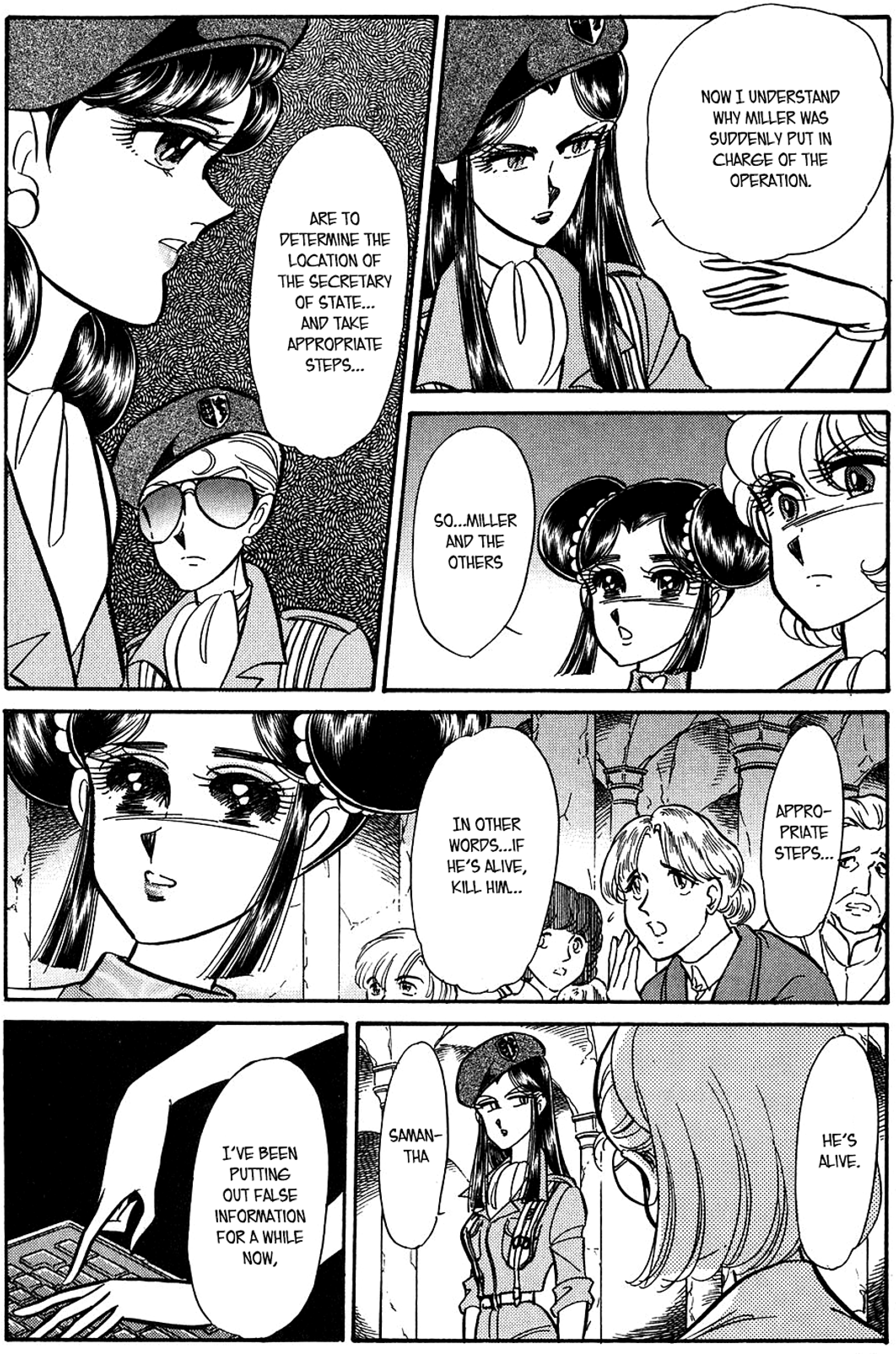
File 25: Double Spade (13)

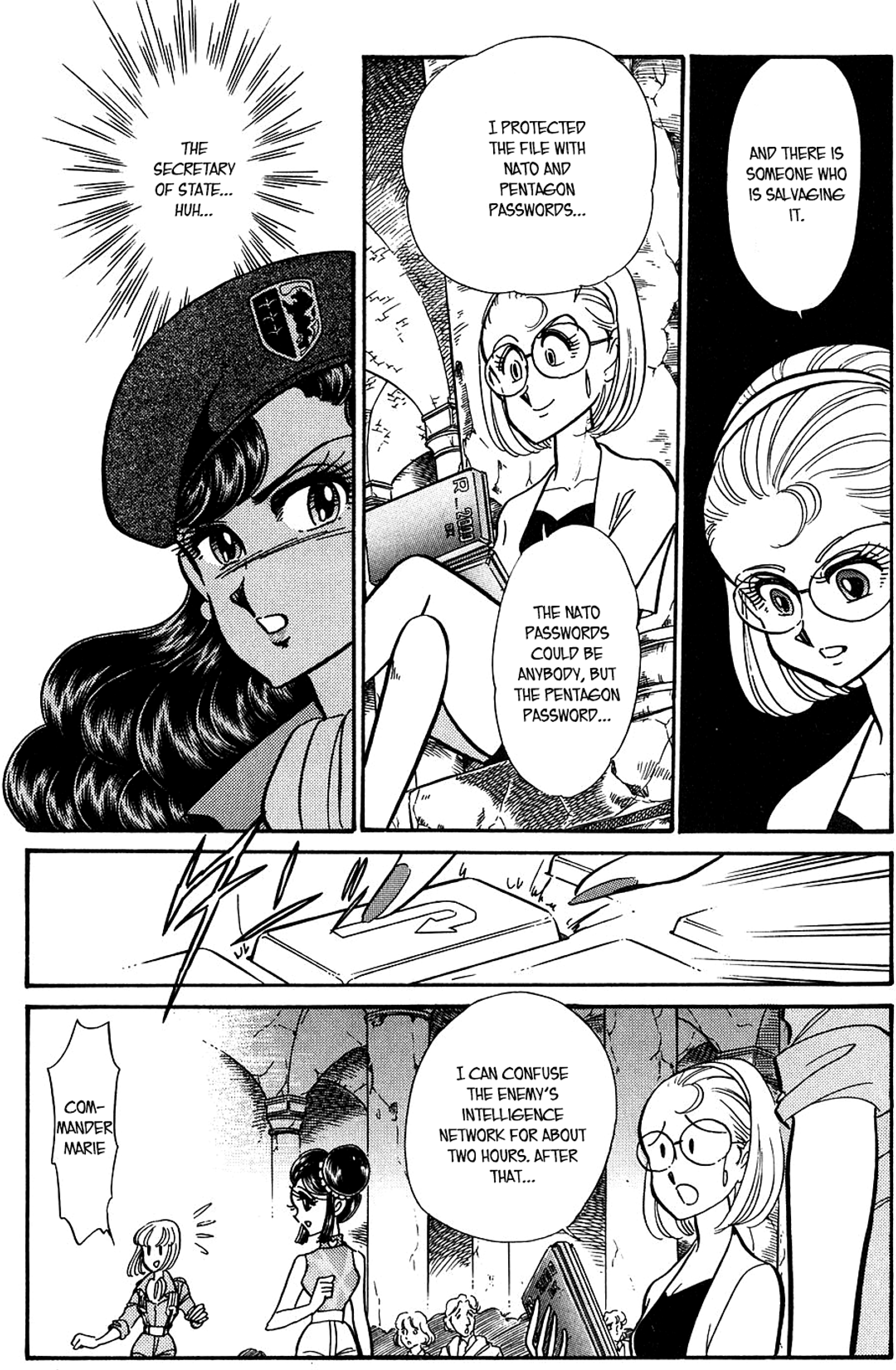

MARIE, THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS DEAD...
THE SECRETARY OF STATE?
UH-HUH... THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY ON TV.
BUT IT ISN'T WORTH PAYING ATTENTION TO.
POLITICIANS' SCANDALS ARE A DAILY OCCURRENCE.
IN RECENT MONTHS THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN VARIOUS SCANDALS THAT APPEAR AND THEN DIE DOWN...
I ADMIT I'M ONLY SPECULATING, BUT IT ALL CLICKED WHEN I HEARD THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE WAS WIENALIAN...
?

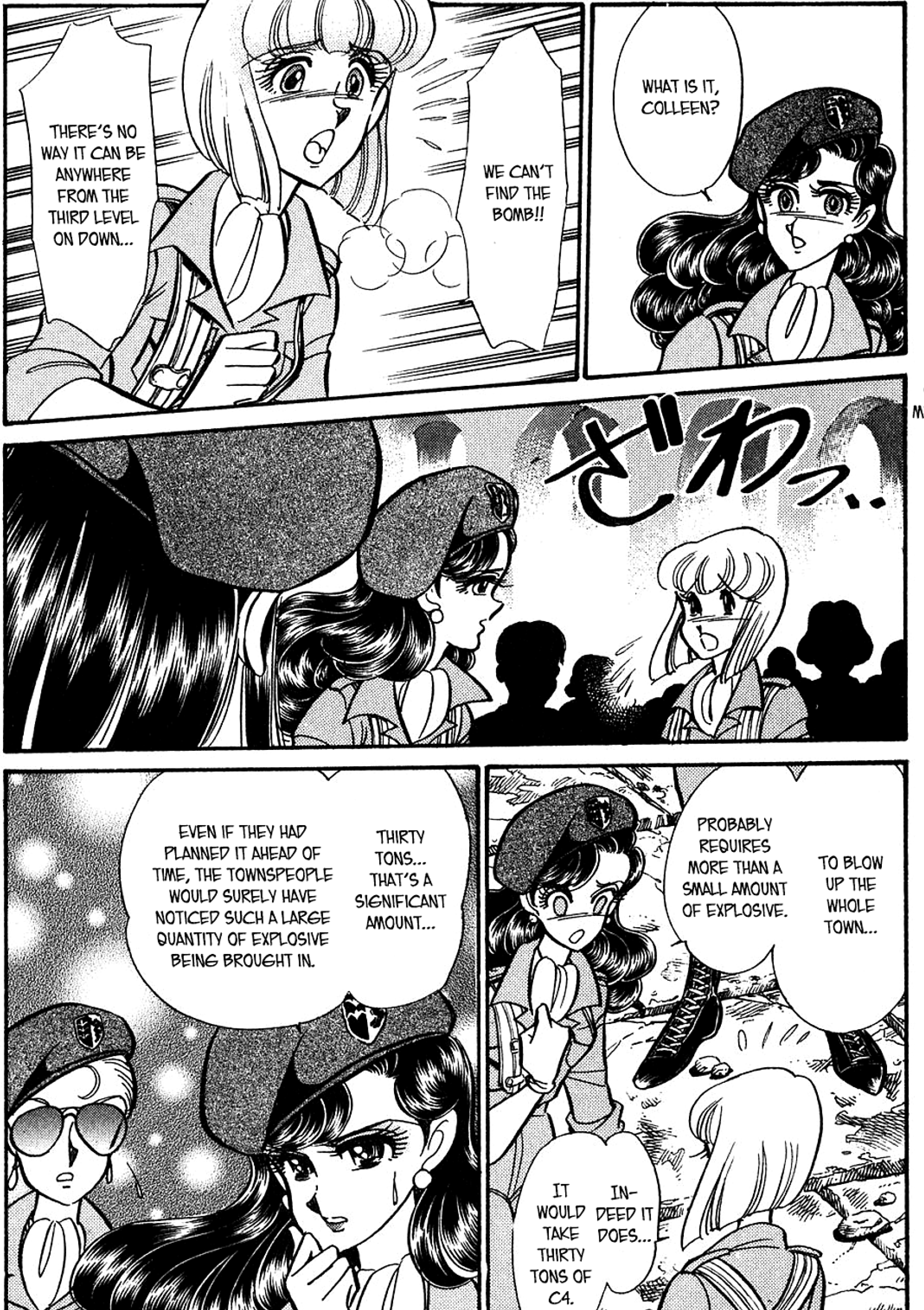

WHEN IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE U.S. WOULD NEGOTIATE PEACE IN VESBANIA'S CIVIL WAR, THE SECRETARY OF STATE IMMEDIATELY TOOK OVER THE NEGOTIATIONS.
!
OUR CURRENT PRESIDENT HAD THE EXPERIENCE OF HAVING SEVERAL OF HIS ORIGINAL CABINET PICKS EMBROILED IN SCANDAL,
SO HE WANTED TO DO ANYTHING TO AVOID SCANDAL WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE...
VERNMENT SHAME
SCANDAL
Presiden
UNFORTU
BEYOND THAT, THE PRESIDENT IS LOOKING TOWARDS REELECTION.
THE NEGOTIATION WAS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE HIS APPROVAL RATINGS IN INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION.
SUCCESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD MORE THAN PAY FOR ITSELF IN MAKING UP FOR THE SCANDALS.

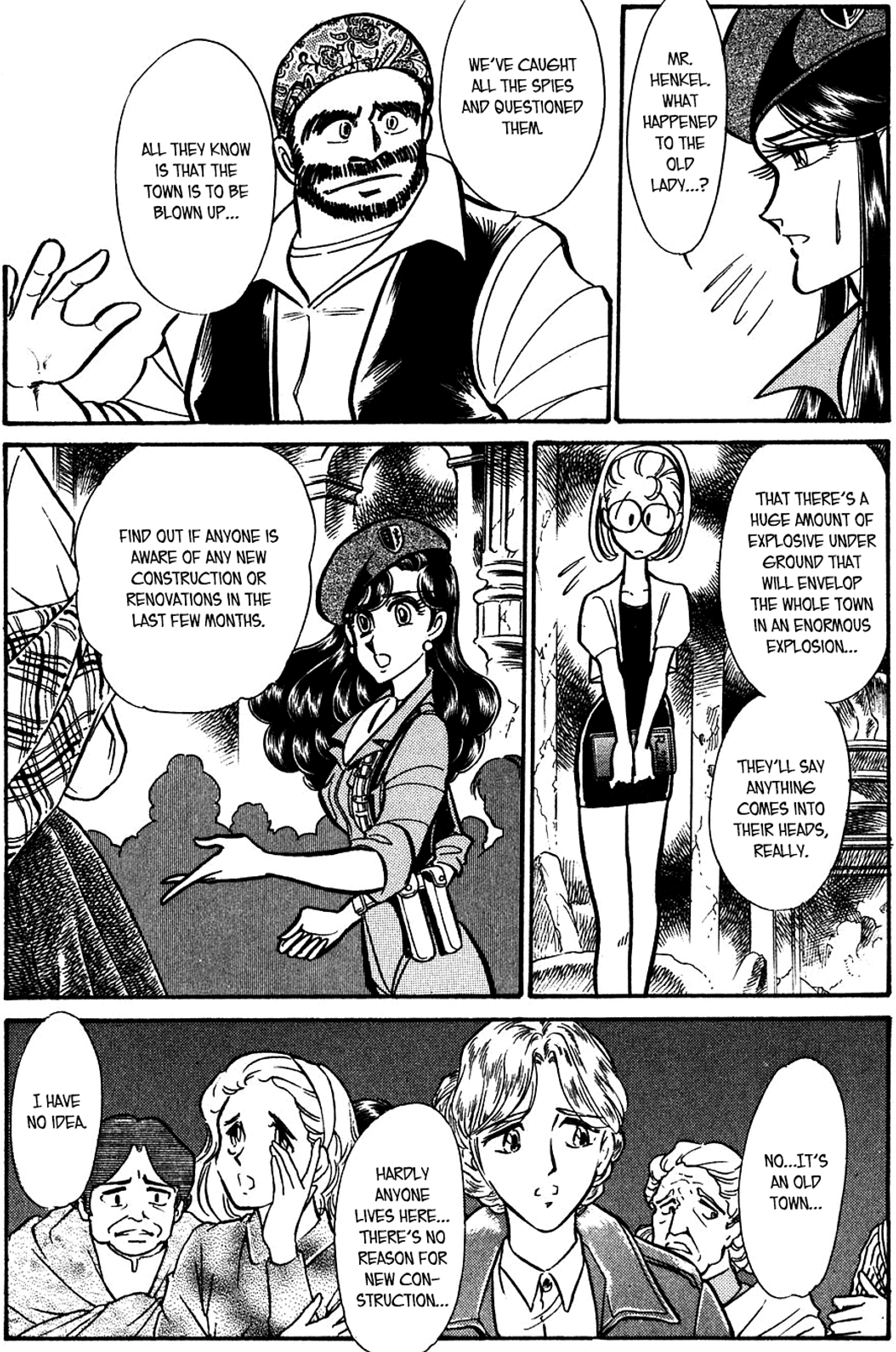

THE SECRETARY OF STATE PUTTING HIMSELF FORWARD AS A DEAL MAKER WAS A GODSEND FOR THE GOVERNMENT...
OR SO I THOUGHT.
EH...
EH
THE THING IS, HE ACTUALLY ACCEPTED THE ROLE OF NEGOTIATOR FOR A DIFFERENT PURPOSE...
TO CARRY OUR GENOCIDE AGAINST THE ILBANIAN PEOPLE...
BUT THE PRESIDENT BECAME AWARE OF THE PLAN AND MOUNTED COUNTER-MEASURES IN EXTREME HASTE...
HE REPLACED SOME OF THE ACCOMPANYING STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WITH CIA AGENTS.

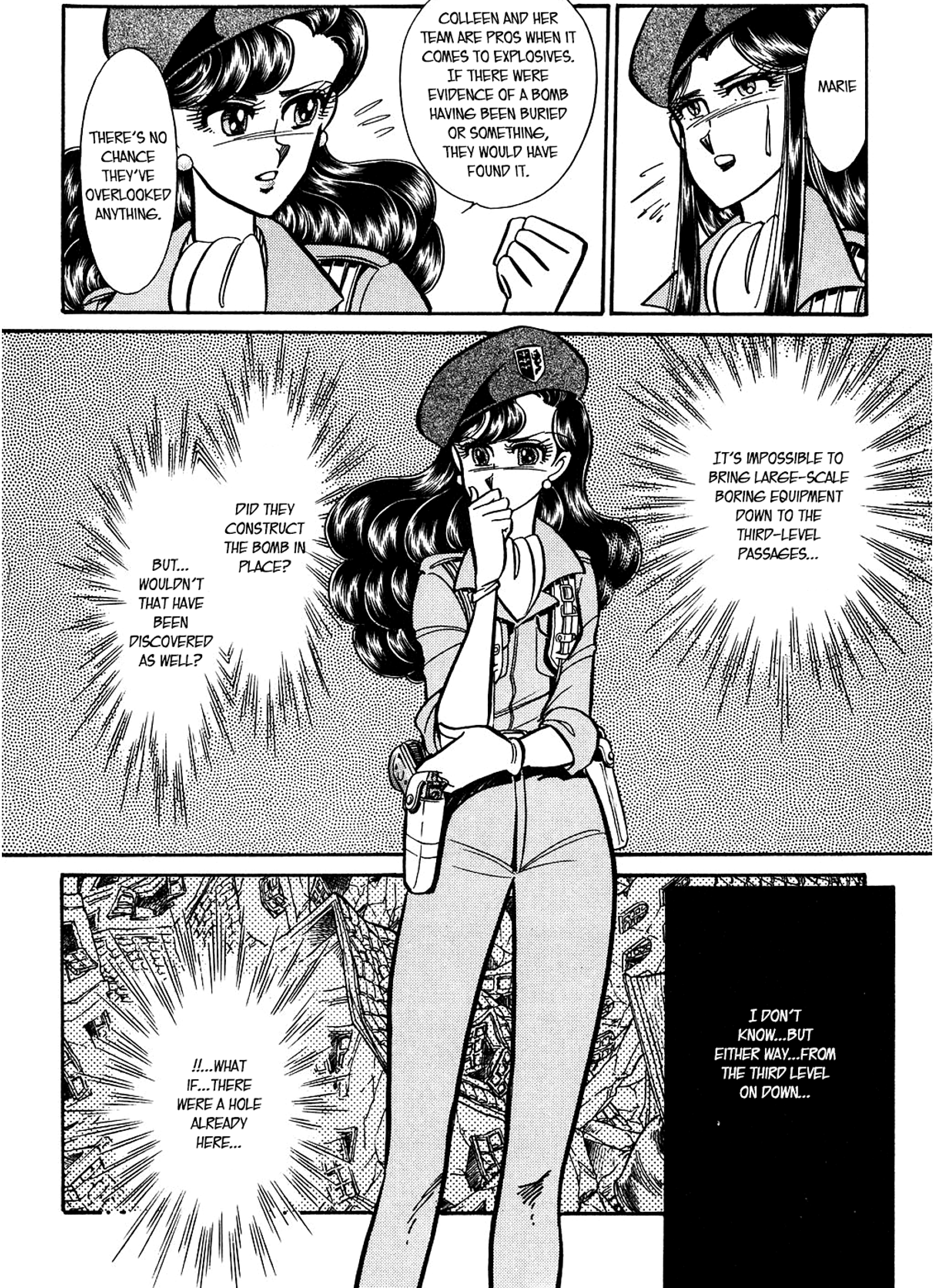

BUT THEN THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENED...
THE PLANE CARRYING THE SECRETARY OF STATE WAS SHOT DOWN...
EVERYONE ON BOARD WAS KILLED, BUT THE FEELING OF RELIEF WAS SHORT-LIVED.
UPON INVESTIGATION IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THE NUMBER OF BODIES WAS THE CORRECT NUMBER,
BUT THE SEXES WERE NOT WHAT THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN...
SINCE THE SITUATION WOULD BE MADE EVEN WORSE IF THE U.S. MILITARY BECAME MORE INVOLVED IN VESBANIA,
THE CIVILIAN ORGANIZATION CAT WAS DEPLOYED.
ALONGSIDE FORCES FROM NATO INTELLIGENCE, WHICH ALSO IS RELATIVELY DISTANT FROM REGULAR U.S. MILITARY FORCES.
SO... THAT'S SCENARIO B?

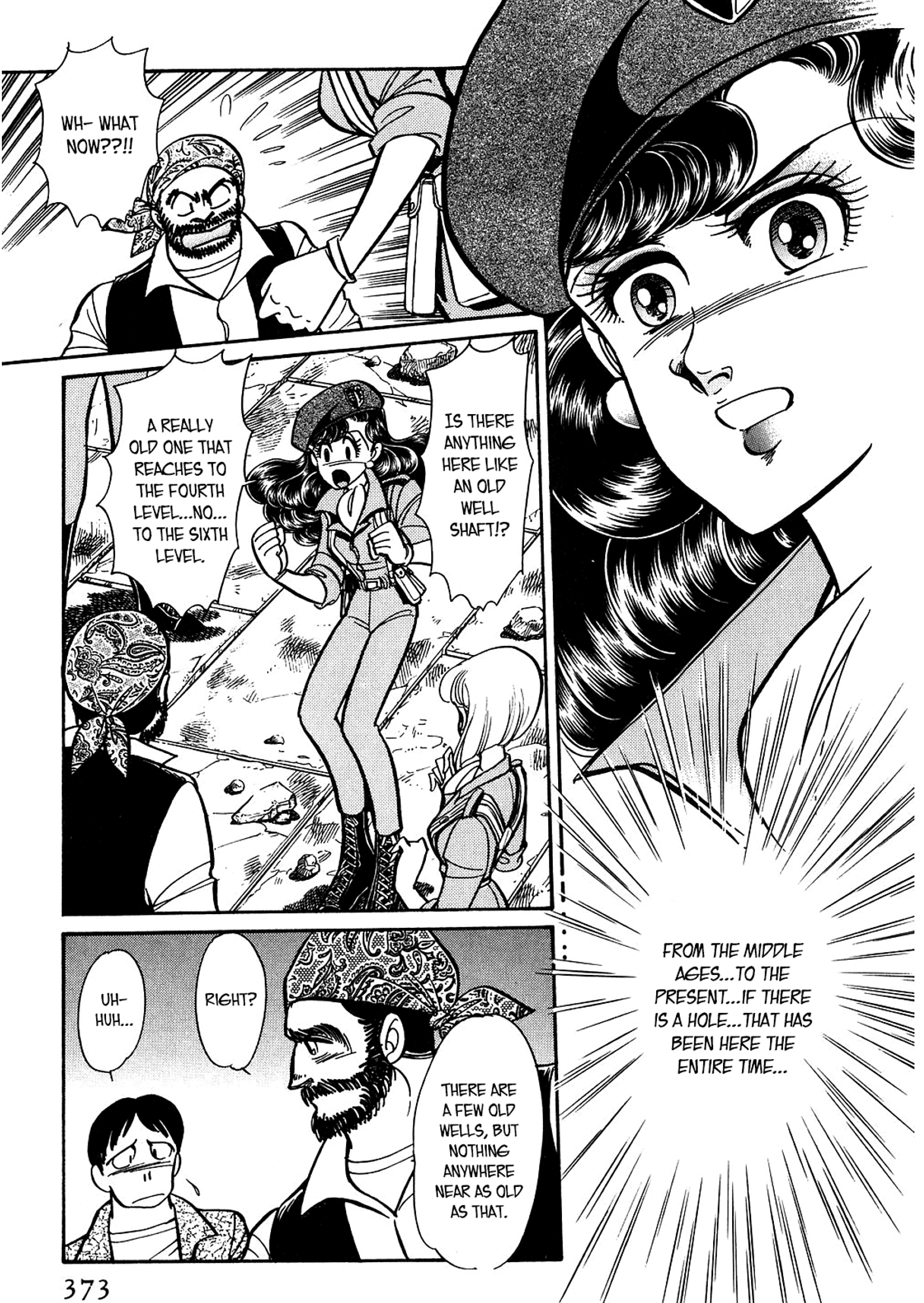

NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY MILLER WAS SUDDENLY PUT IN CHARGE OF THE OPERATION.
SO...MILLER AND THE OTHERS
ARE TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE... AND TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS...
APPROPRIATE STEPS...
IN OTHER WORDS...IF HE'S ALIVE, KILL HIM..
HE'S ALIVE.
SAMANTHA
I'VE BEEN PUTTING OUT FALSE INFORMATION FOR A WHILE NOW,

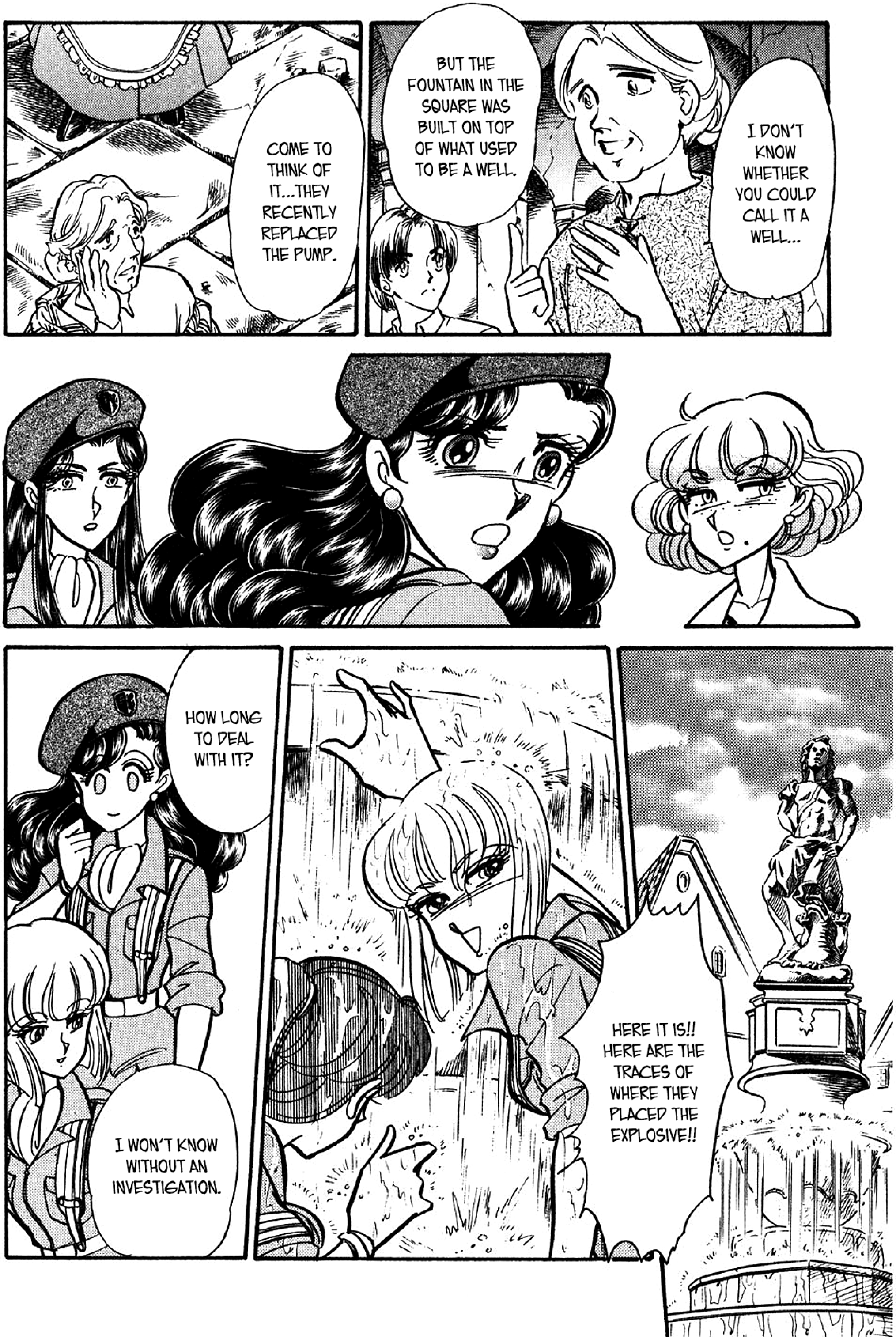

AND THERE IS SOMEONE WHO IS SALVAGING IT.
I PROTECTED THE FILE WITH NATO AND PENTAGON PASSWORDS...
THE NATO PASSWORDS COULD BE ANYBODY, BUT THE PENTAGON PASSWORD...
THE SECRETARY OF STATE... HUH...
R-2000
I CAN CONFUSE THE ENEMY'S INTELLIGENCE NETWORK FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS. AFTER THAT...
COMMANDER MARIE

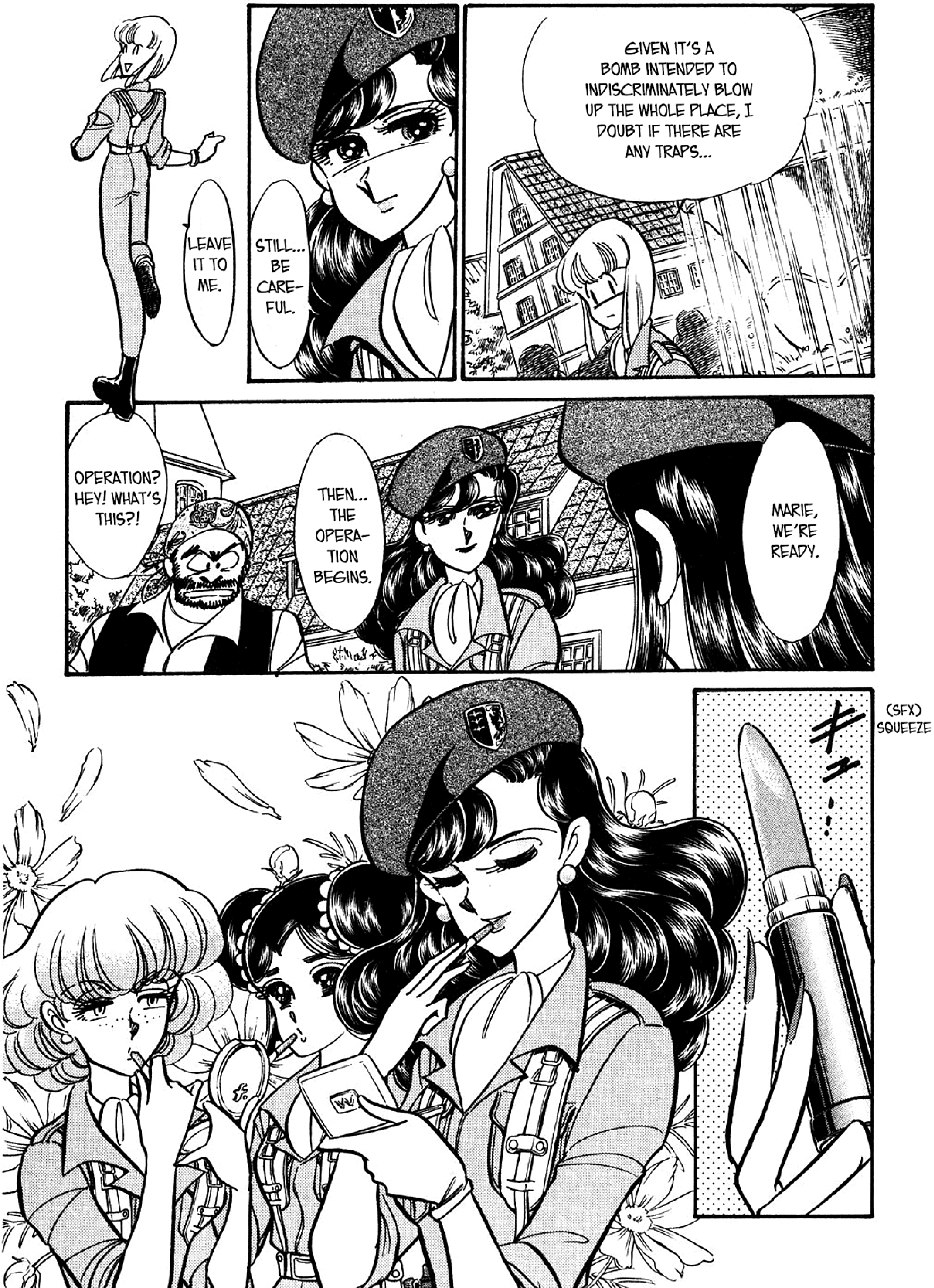

WHAT IS IT, COLLEEN?
WE CAN'T FIND THE BOMB!!
THERE'S NO WAY IT CAN BE ANYWHERE FROM THE THIRD LEVEL ON DOWN...
ざわっ..
(SFX) MUTTERING
TO BLOW UP THE WHOLE TOWN...
PROBABLY REQUIRES MORE THAN A SMALL AMOUNT OF EXPLOSIVE.
INDEED IT DOES...
IT WOULD TAKE THIRTY TONS OF C4.
THIRTY TONS... THAT'S A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT...
EVEN IF THEY HAD PLANNED IT AHEAD OF TIME, THE TOWNSPEOPLE WOULD SURELY HAVE NOTICED SUCH A LARGE QUANTITY OF EXPLOSIVE BEING BROUGHT IN.

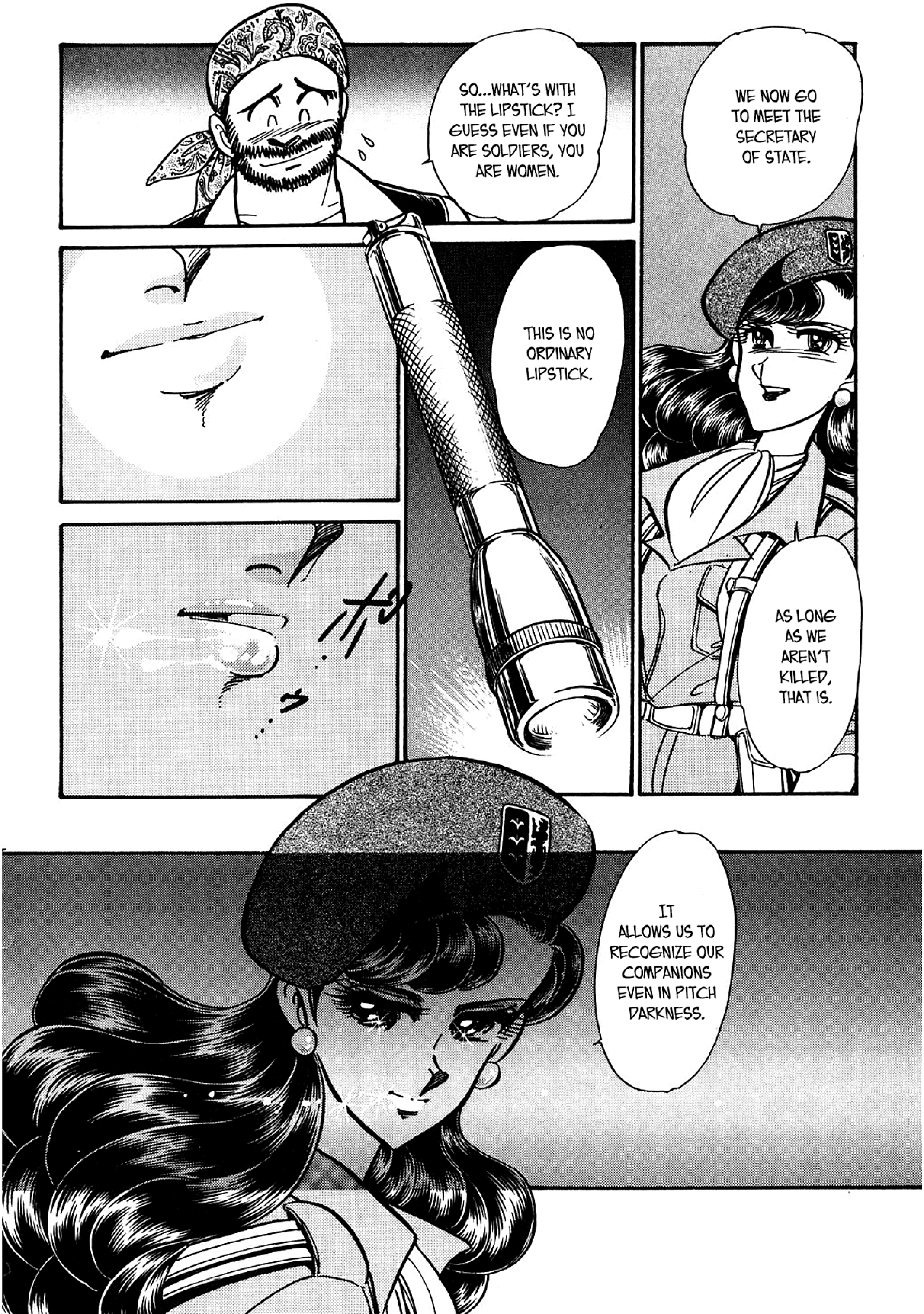

MR. HENKEL. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OLD LADY...?
WE'VE CAUGHT ALL THE SPIES AND QUESTIONED THEM.
ALL THEY KNOW IS THAT THE TOWN IS TO BE BLOWN UP...
THAT THERE'S A HUGE AMOUNT OF EXPLOSIVE UNDER GROUND THAT WILL ENVELOP THE WHOLE TOWN IN AN ENORMOUS EXPLOSION...
THEY'LL SAY ANYTHING COMES INTO THEIR HEADS, REALLY.
FIND OUT IF ANYONE IS AWARE OF ANY NEW CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATIONS IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS.
NO...IT'S AN OLD TOWN...
HARDLY ANYONE LIVES HERE... THERE'S NO REASON FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION...
I HAVE NO IDEA.

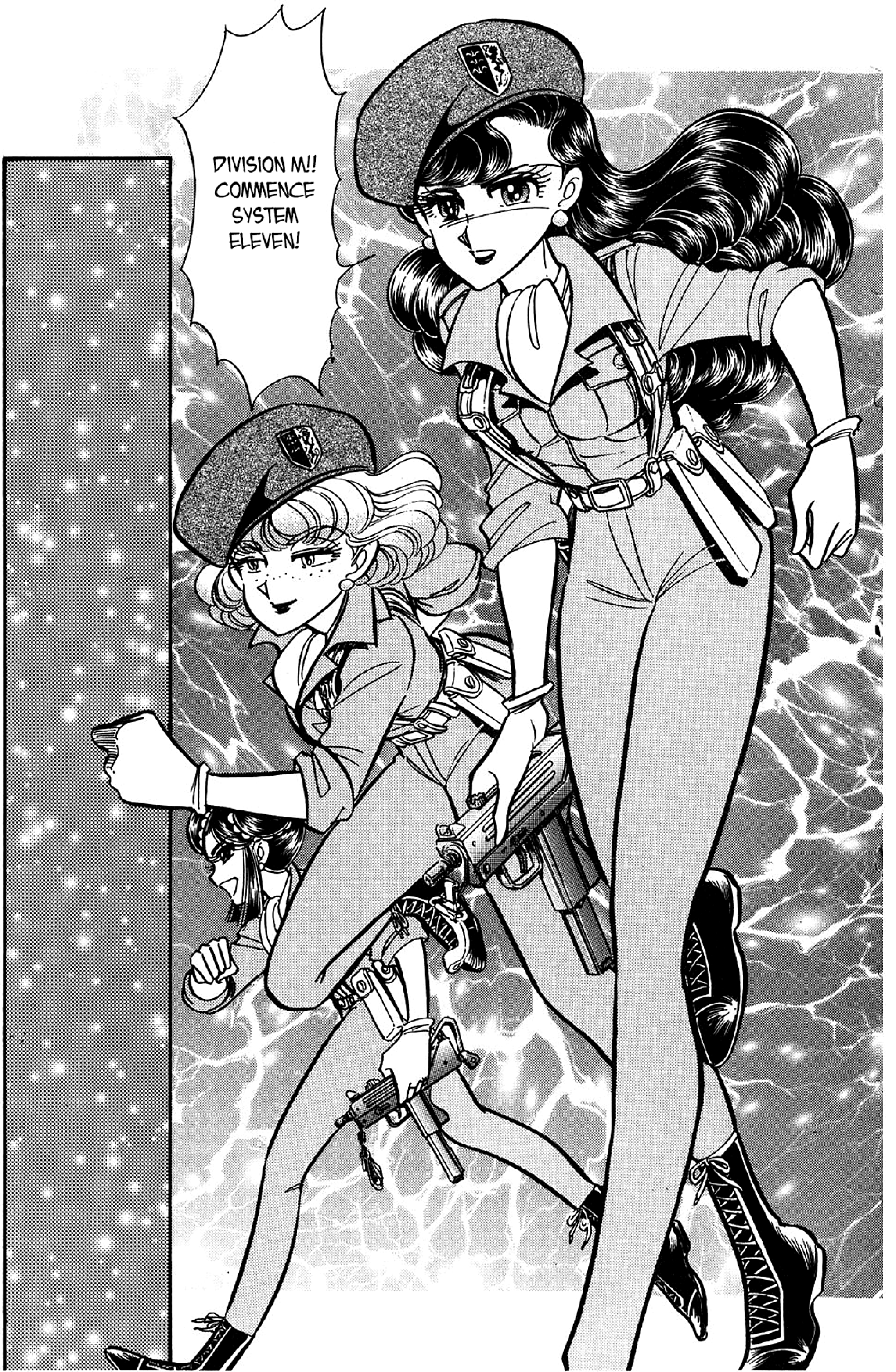

MARIE
COLLEEN AND HER TEAM ARE PROS WHEN IT COMES TO EXPLOSIVES. IF THERE WERE EVIDENCE OF A BOMB HAVING BEEN BURIED OR SOMETHING, THEY WOULD HAVE FOUND IT.
THERE'S NO CHANCE THEY'VE OVERLOOKED ANYTHING.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BRING LARGE-SCALE BORING EQUIPMENT DOWN TO THE THIRD-LEVEL PASSAGES...
DID THEY CONSTRUCT THE BOMB IN PLACE?
BUT... WOULDN'T THAT HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED AS WELL?
I DON'T KNOW...BUT EITHER WAY...FROM THE THIRD LEVEL ON DOWN..
!!...WHAT IF...THERE WERE A HOLE ALREADY HERE...

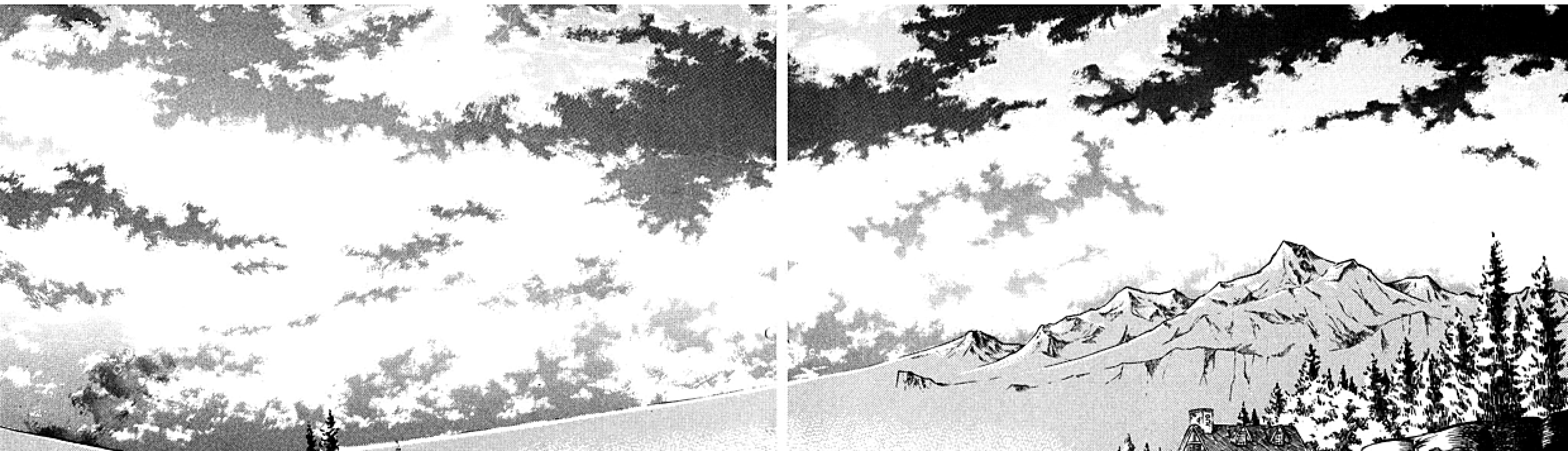

WH- WHAT NOW??!!
IS THERE ANYTHING HERE LIKE AN OLD WELL SHAFT!?
A REALLY OLD ONE THAT REACHES TO THE FOURTH LEVEL...NO... TO THE SIXTH LEVEL.
FROM THE MIDDLE AGES...TO THE PRESENT...IF THERE IS A HOLE...THAT HAS BEEN HERE THE ENTIRE TIME...
RIGHT?
UH-HUH...
THERE ARE A FEW OLD WELLS, BUT NOTHING ANYWHERE NEAR AS OLD AS THAT.

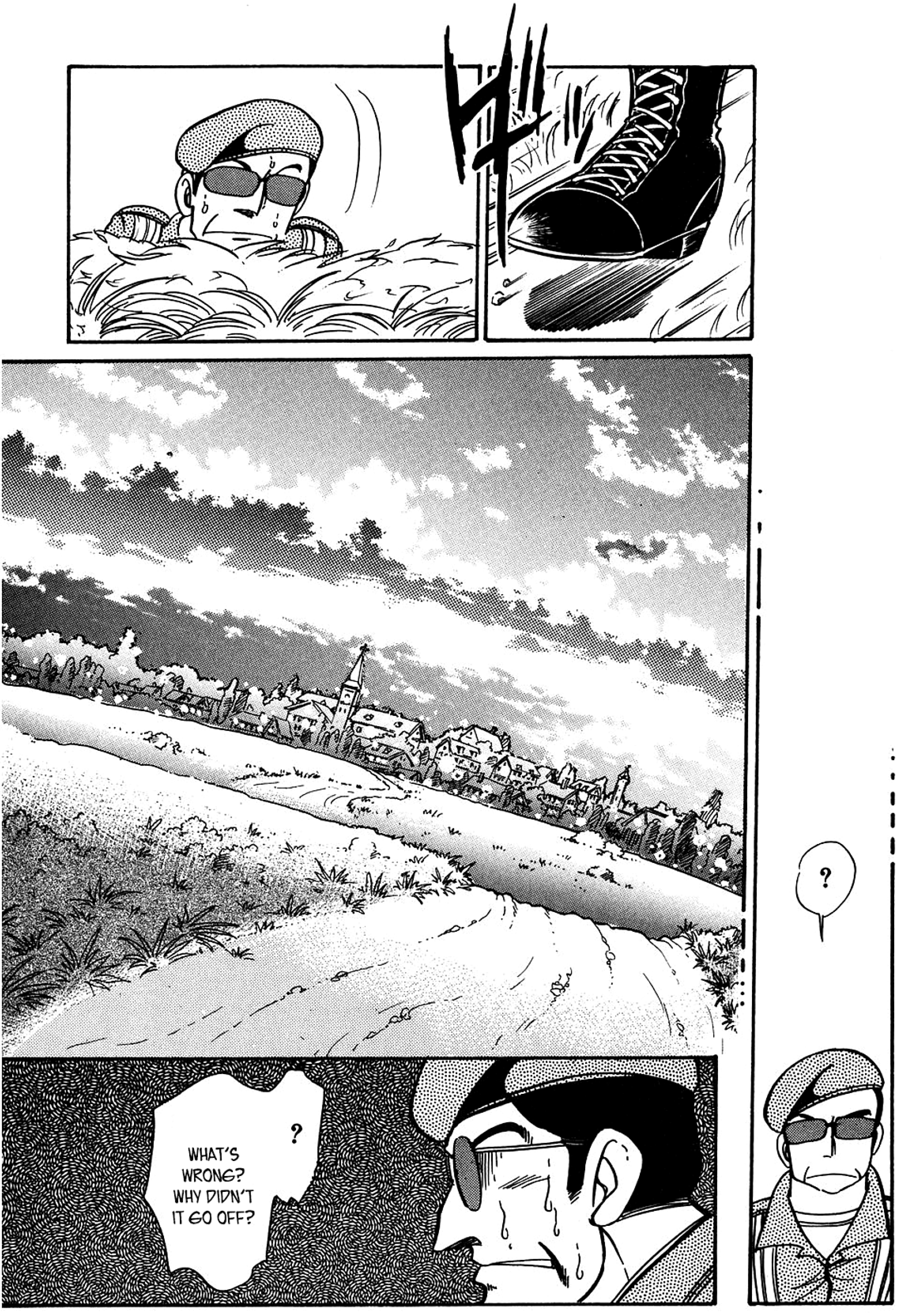

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU COULD CALL IT A WELL...
BUT THE FOUNTAIN IN THE SQUARE WAS BUILT ON TOP OF WHAT USED TO BE A WELL.
COME TO THINK OF IT...THEY RECENTLY REPLACED THE PUMP.
HERE IT IS!! HERE ARE THE TRACES OF WHERE THEY PLACED THE EXPLOSIVE!!
HOW LONG TO DEAL WITH IT?
I WON'T KNOW WITHOUT AN INVESTIGATION.

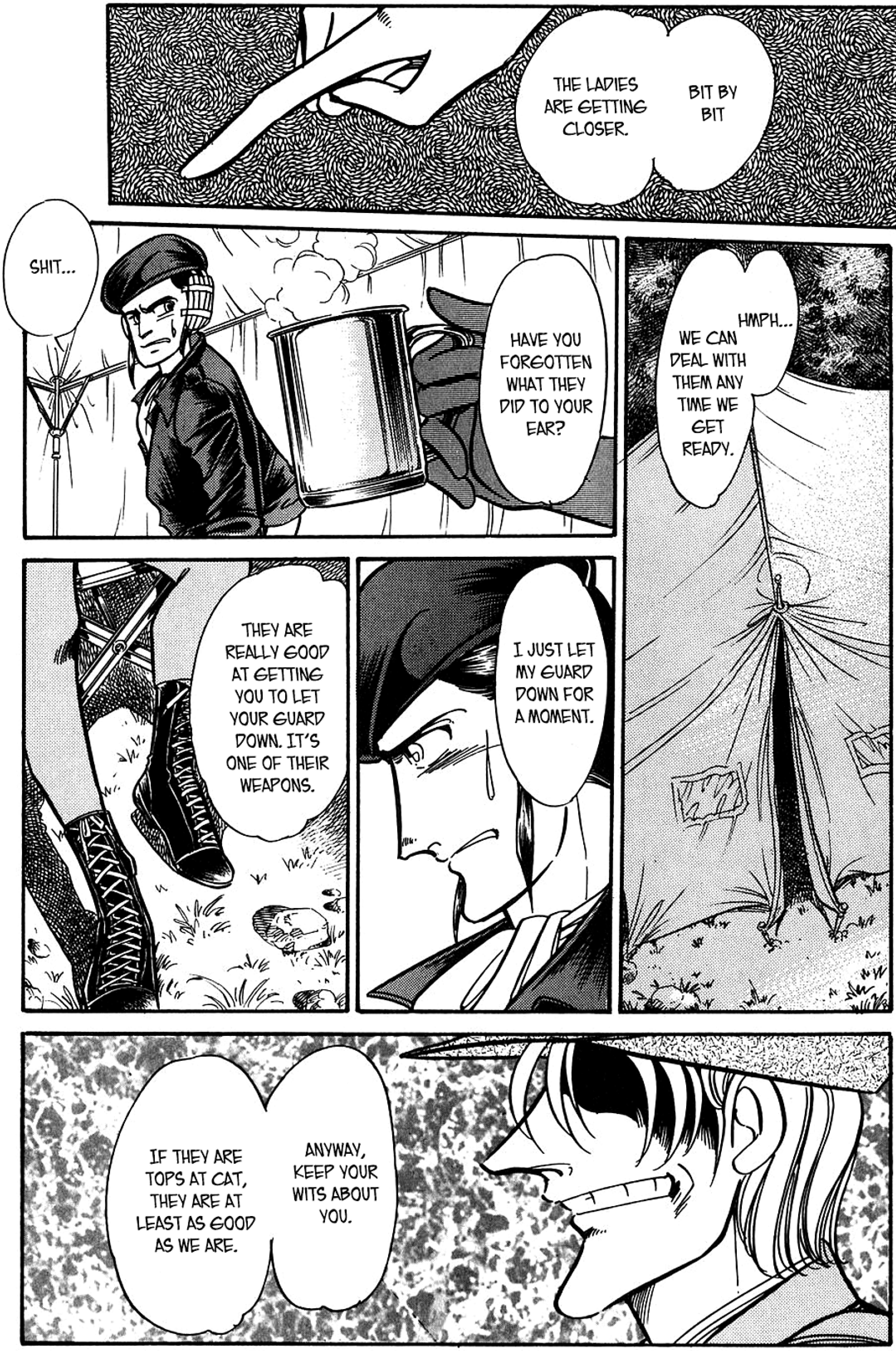

GIVEN IT'S A BOMB INTENDED TO INDISCRIMINATELY BLOW UP THE WHOLE PLACE, I DOUBT IF THERE ARE ANY TRAPS...
STILL... BE CAREFUL.
LEAVE IT TO ME.
MARIE, WE'RE READY.
THEN... THE OPERATION BEGINS.
OPERATION? HEY! WHAT'S THIS?!
(SFX) SQUEEZE

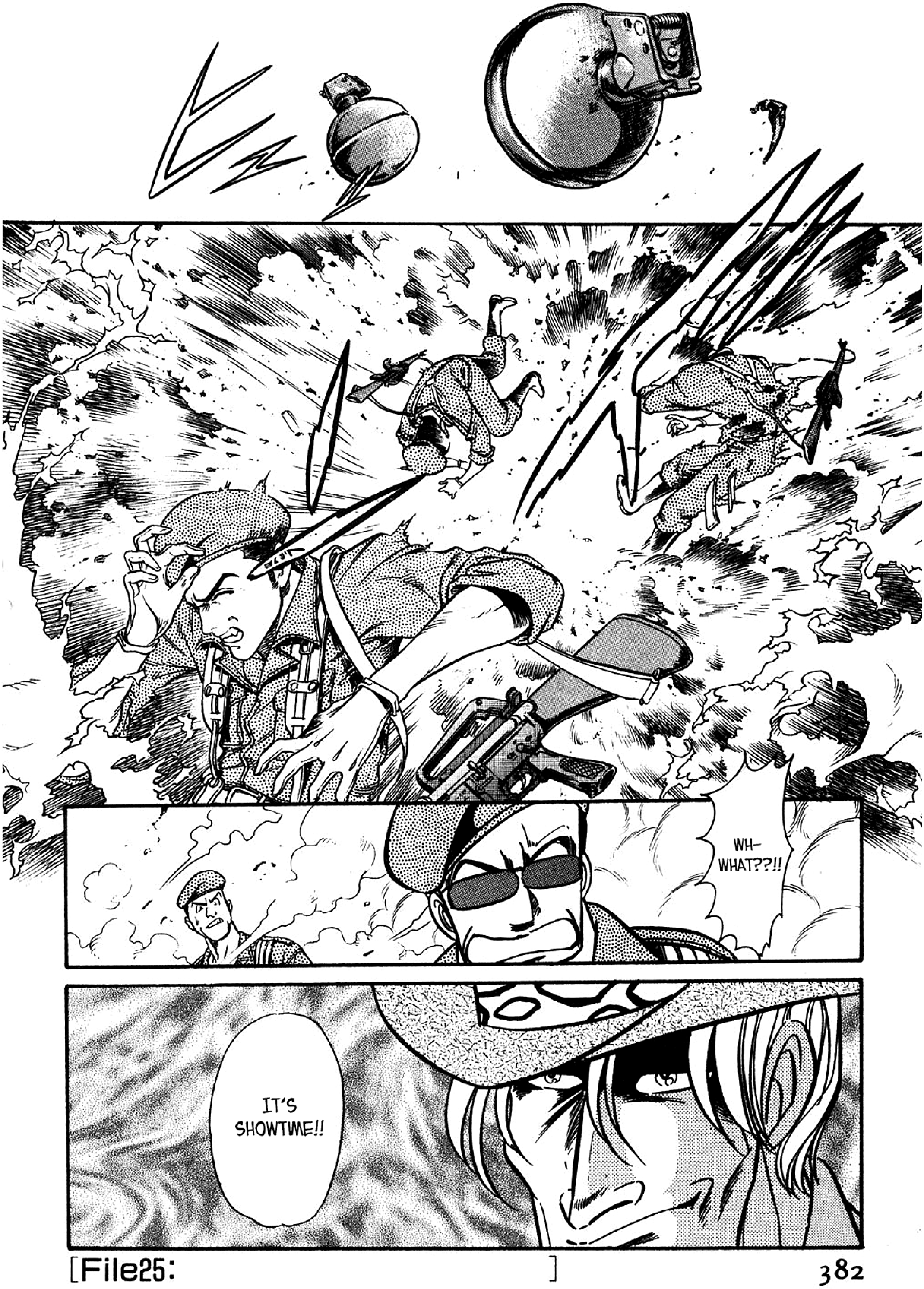

WE NOW GO TO MEET THE SECRETARY OF STATE.
SO...WHAT'S WITH THE LIPSTICK? I GUESS EVEN IF YOU ARE SOLDIERS, YOU ARE WOMEN.
THIS IS NO ORDINARY LIPSTICK.
AS LONG AS WE AREN'T KILLED, THAT IS.
IT ALLOWS US TO RECOGNIZE OUR COMPANIONS EVEN IN PITCH DARKNESS.

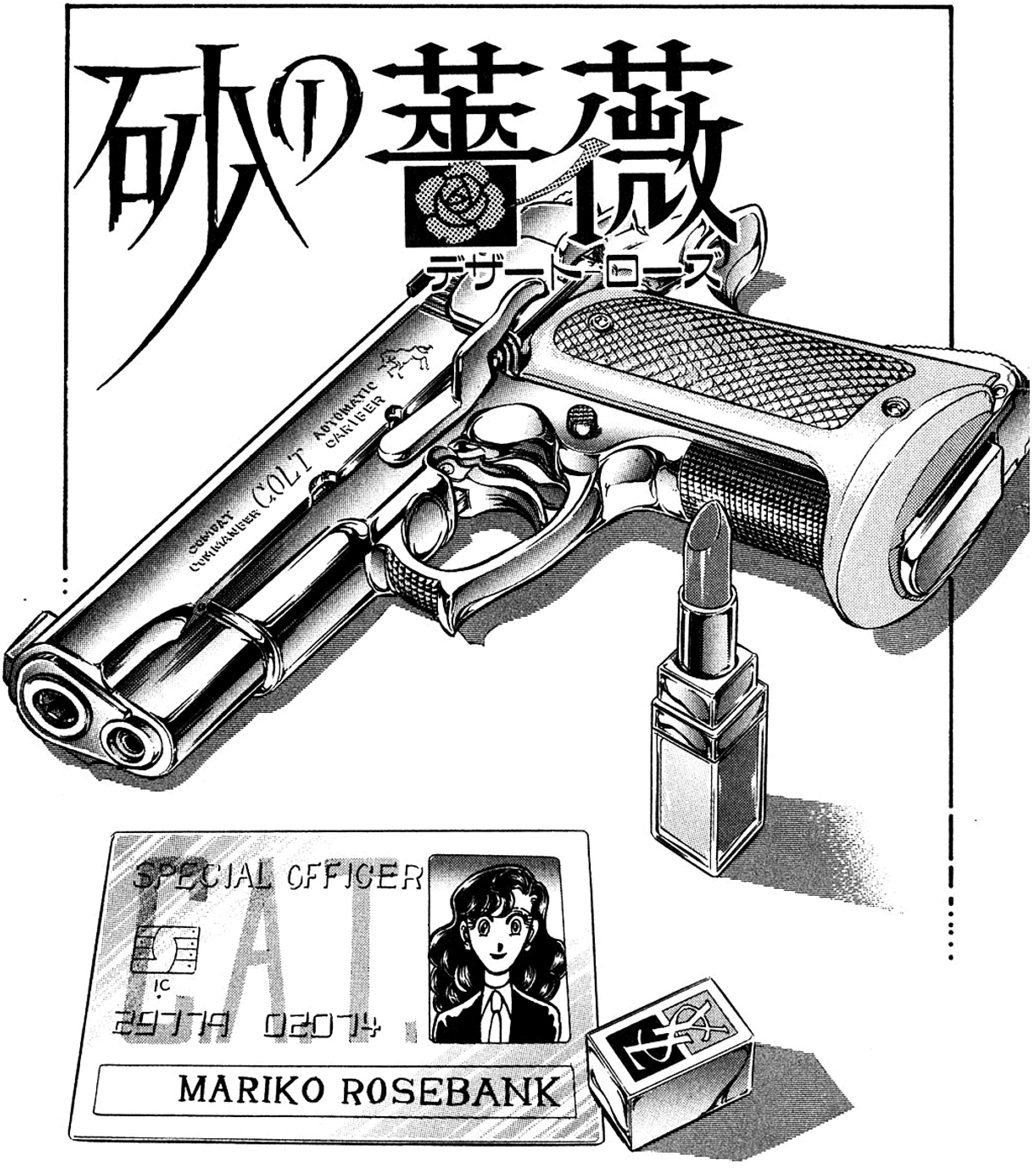

DIVISION M!! COMMENCE SYSTEM ELEVEN!


IT'S AS I THOUGHT. THIS IS FAKE INFORMATION ...
SO THEY WANT TO DELAY THE INEVITABLE.
NO MATTER. BLOW THE MAGGOTS UP.

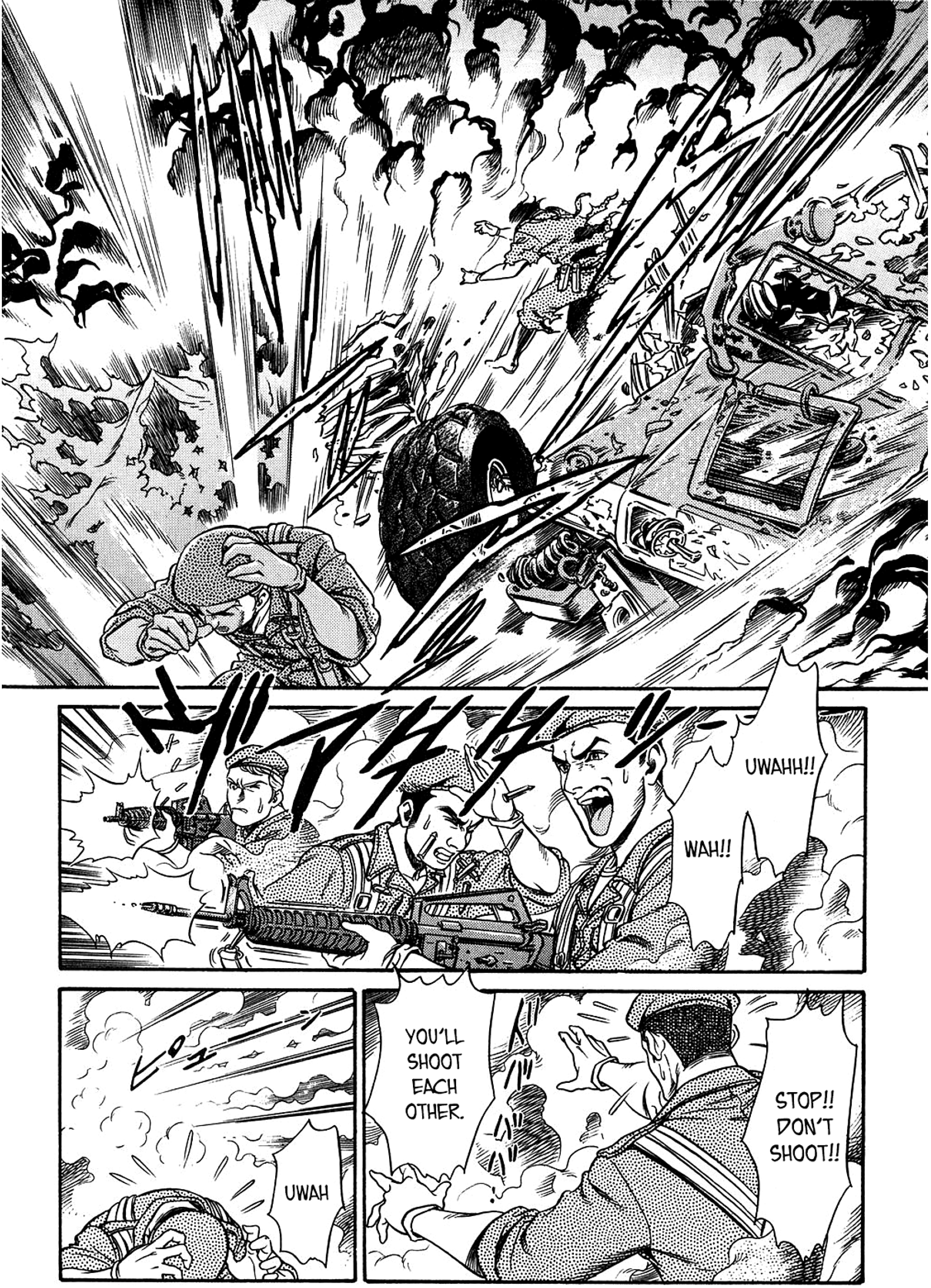

ザッ
?
?
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY DIDN'T IT GO OFF?

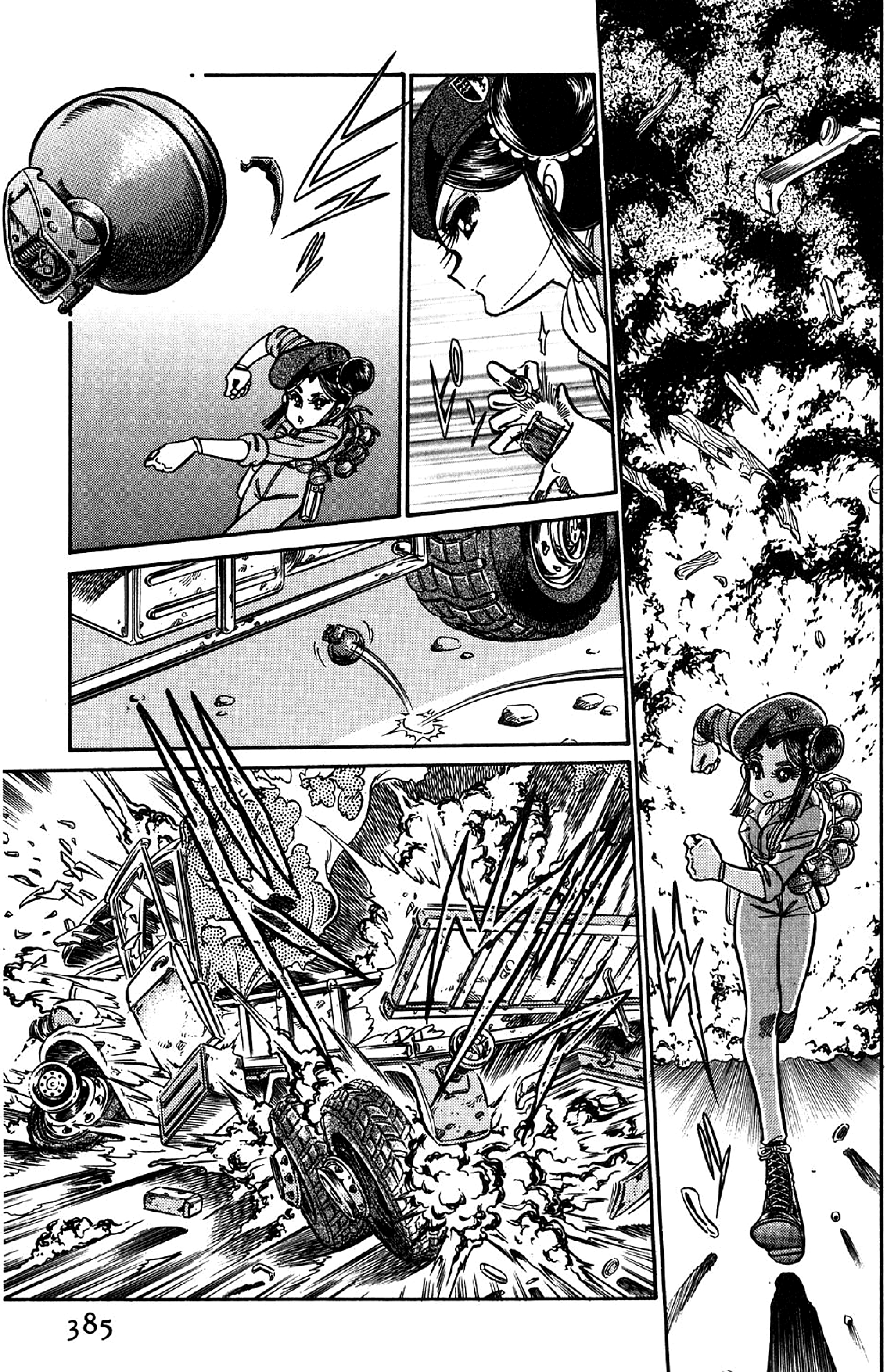

BIT BY BIT
THE LADIES ARE GETTING CLOSER.
HMPH... WE CAN DEAL WITH THEM ANY TIME WE GET READY.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT THEY DID TO YOUR EAR?
SHIT...
I JUST LET MY GUARD DOWN FOR A MOMENT.
THEY ARE REALLY GOOD AT GETTING YOU TO LET YOUR GUARD DOWN. IT'S ONE OF THEIR WEAPONS.
ANYWAY, KEEP YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU.
IF THEY ARE TOPS AT CAT, THEY ARE AT LEAST AS GOOD AS WE ARE.

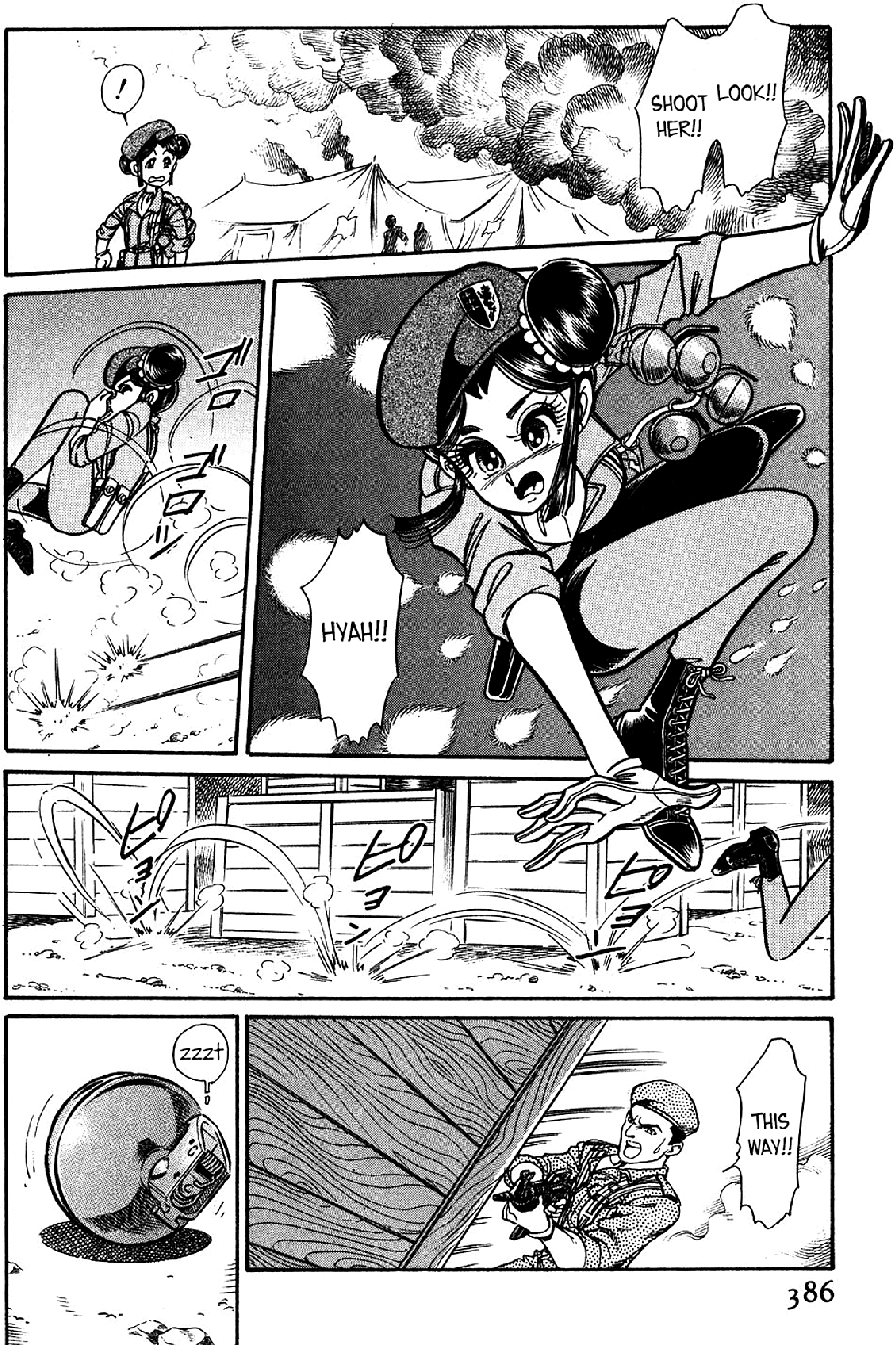

WH- WHAT??!!
IT'S SHOWTIME!!

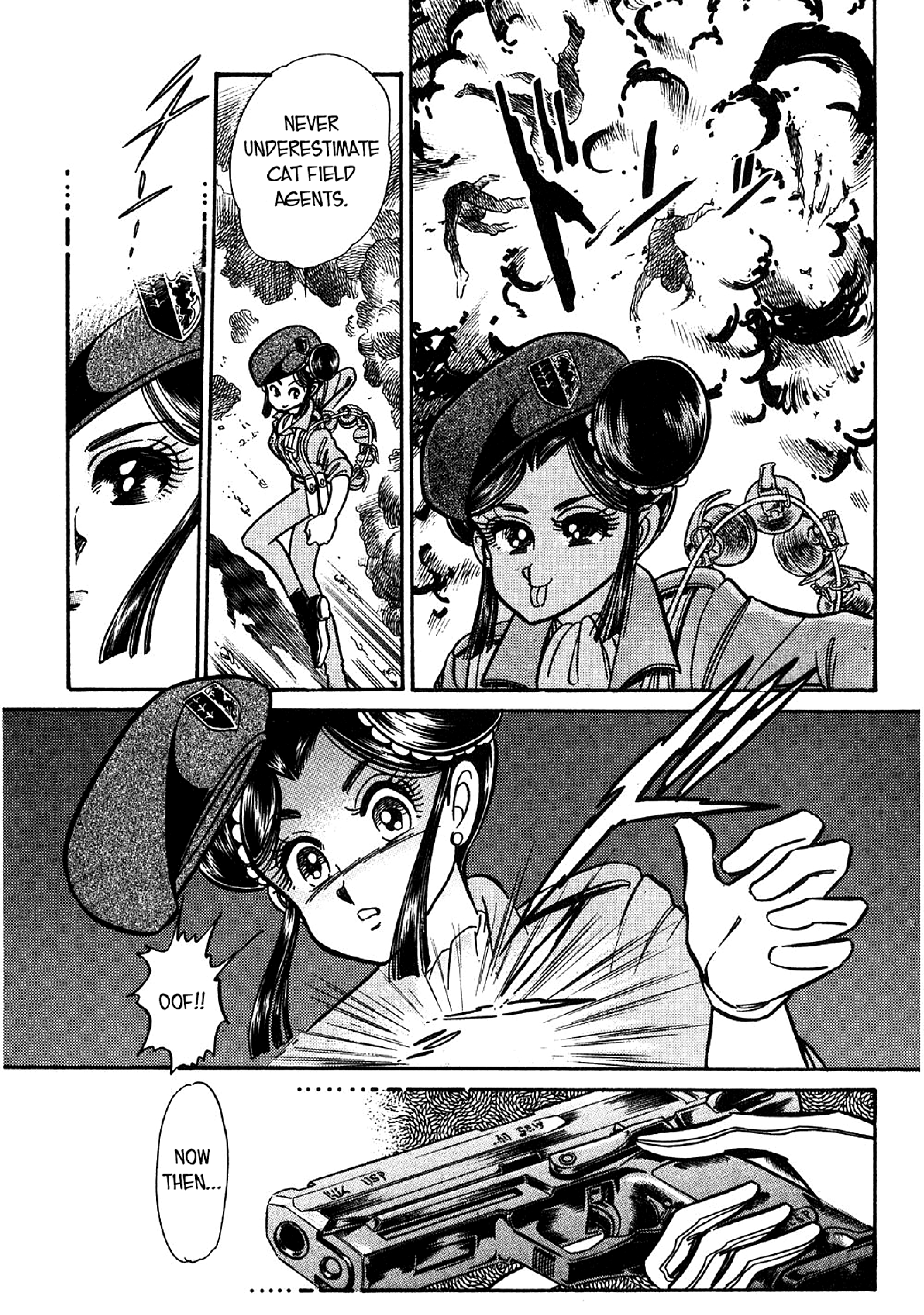

砂の薔薇
デザートローズ
COMBAT COMMANDER COLT AUTOMATIC CALIBER
SPECIAL OFFICER
C.A.T.
IC
29779 02074
MARIKO ROSEBANK

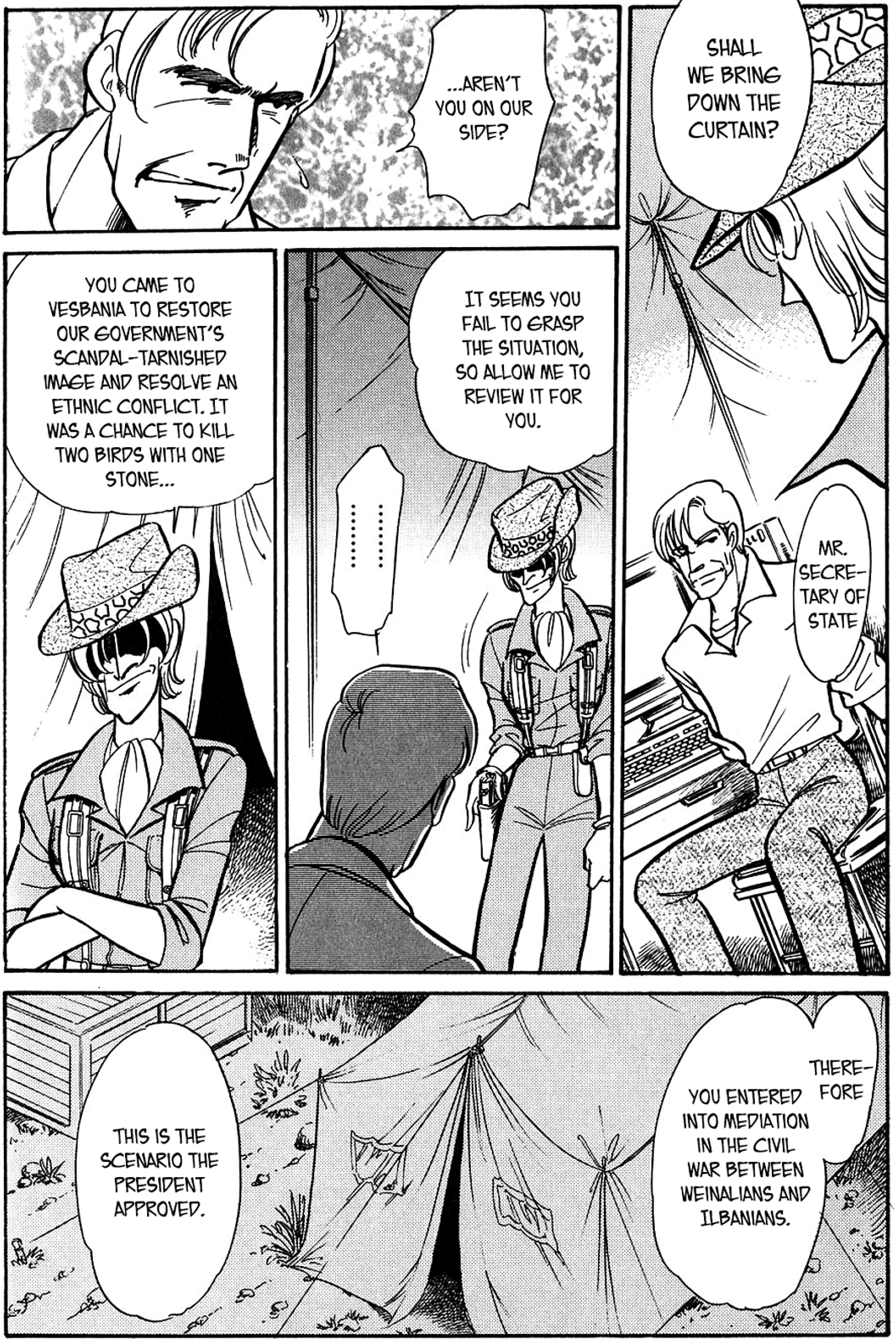
File 25: Double Spade (14)

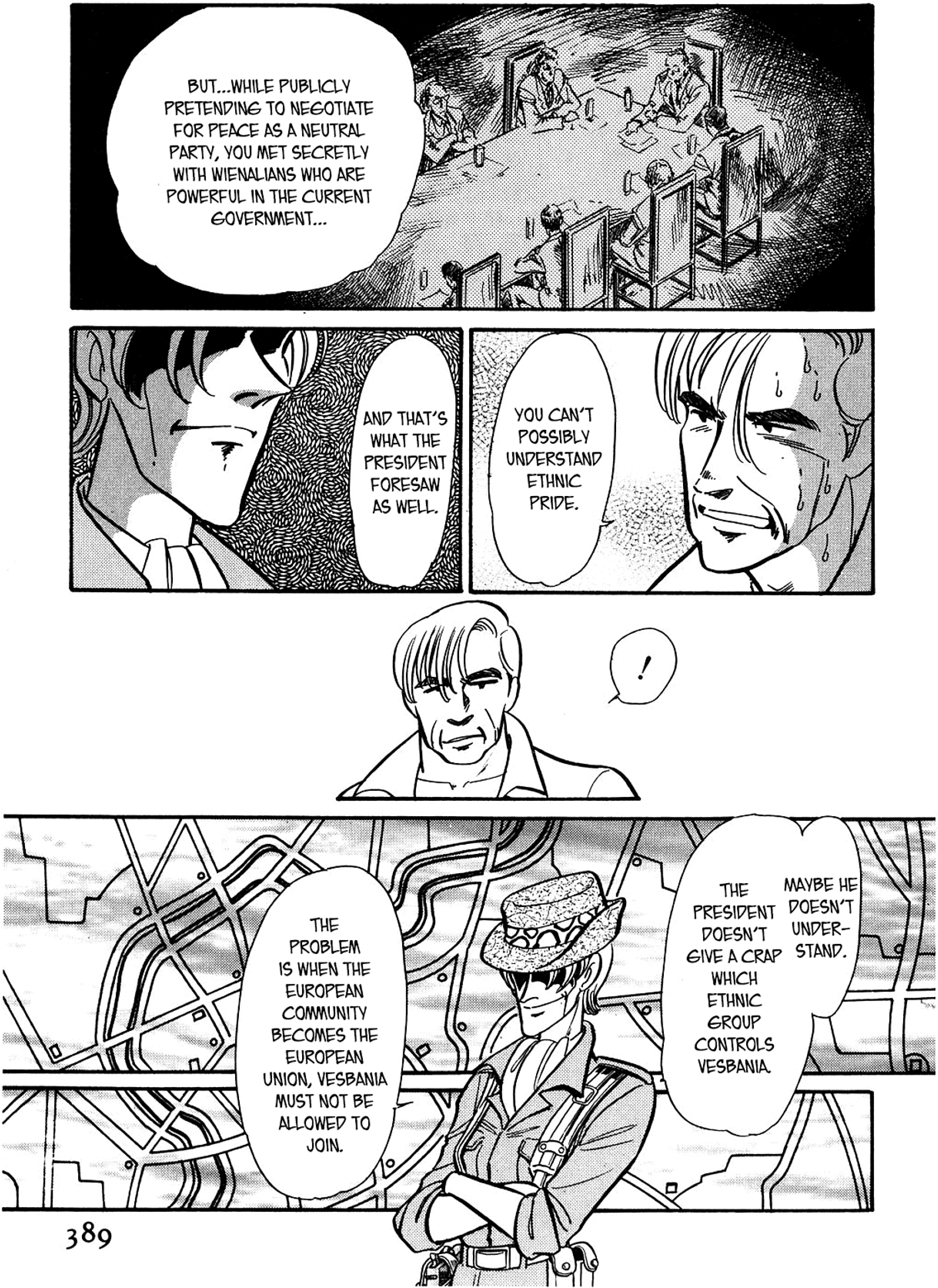

UWAHH!!
WAH!!
STOP!! DON'T SHOOT!!
YOU'LL SHOOT EACH OTHER.
UWAH

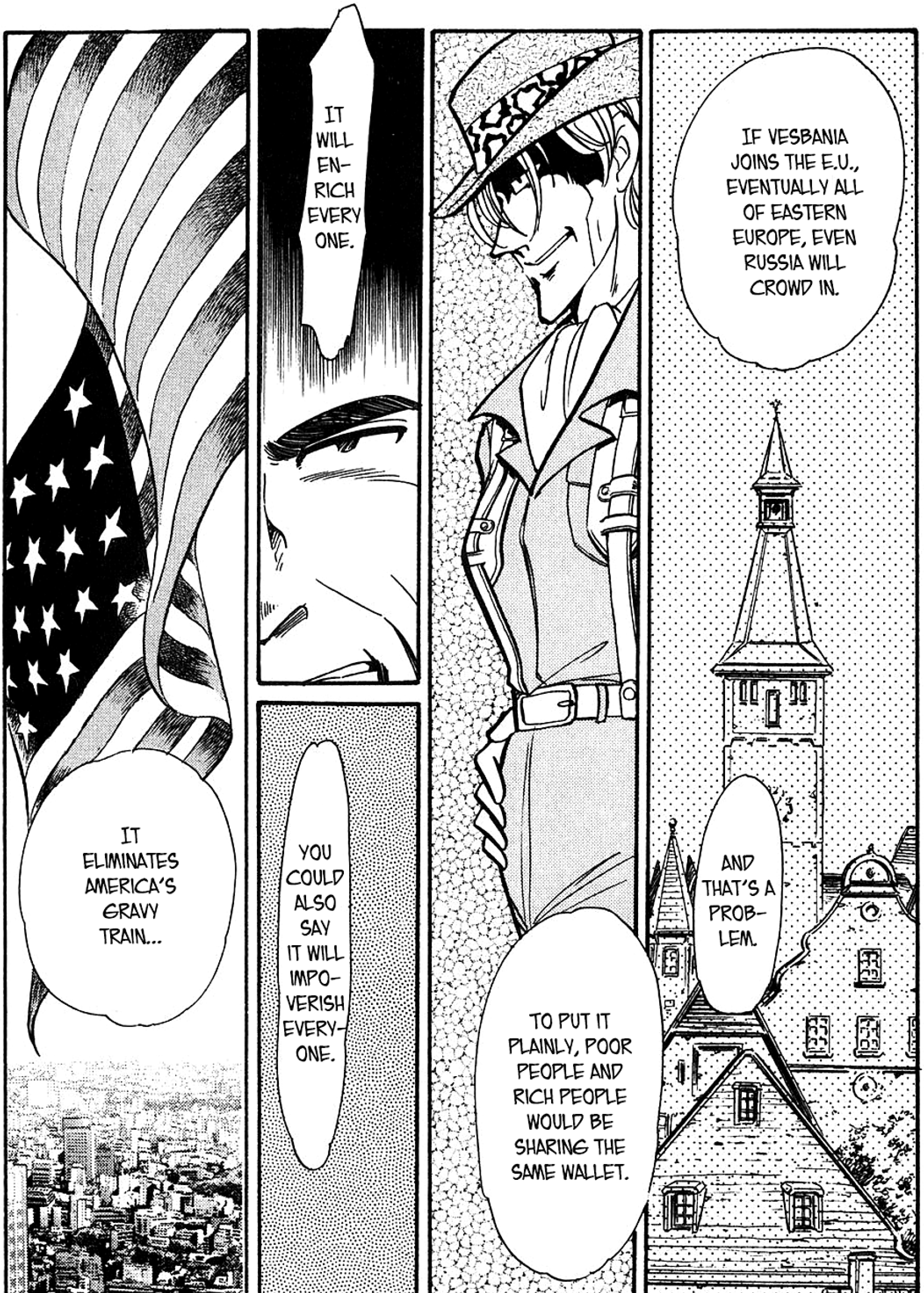


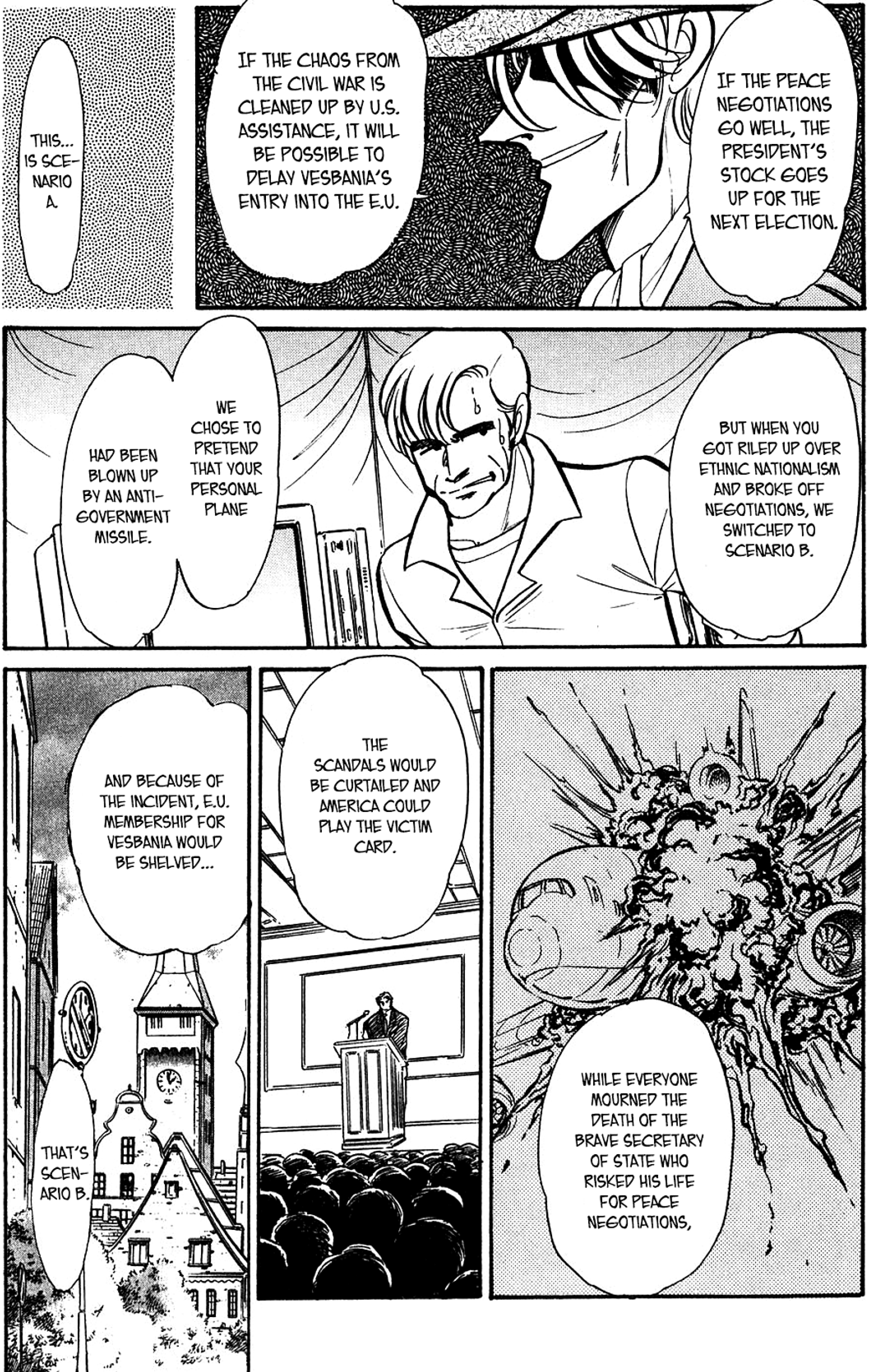

LOOK!!
SHOOT HER!!
!
HYAH!!
ゴロ
ゴロッ
ピョン
ピョン
ピョン
THIS WAY!!
zzzt

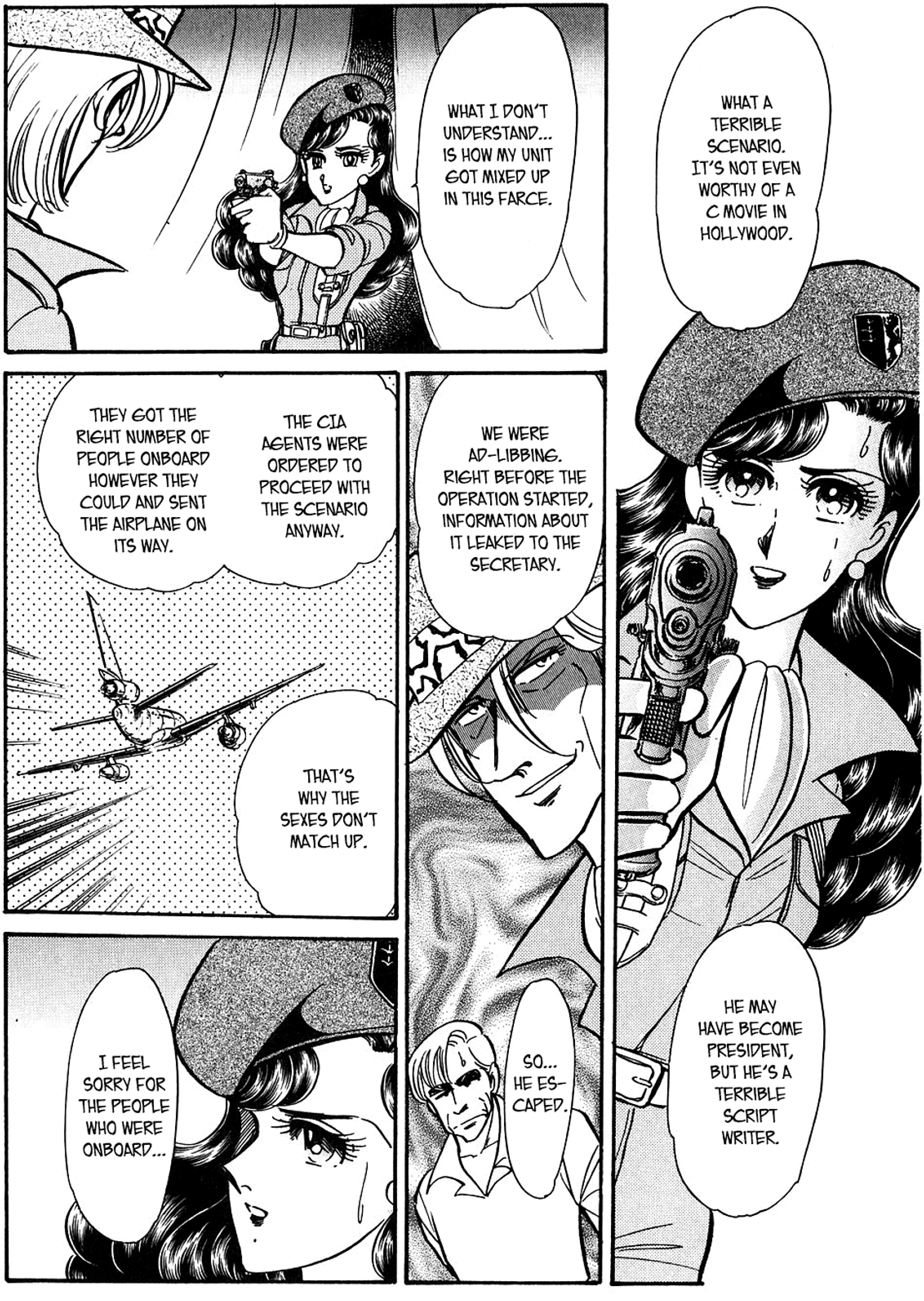

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE CAT FIELD AGENTS.
OOF!!
NOW THEN...

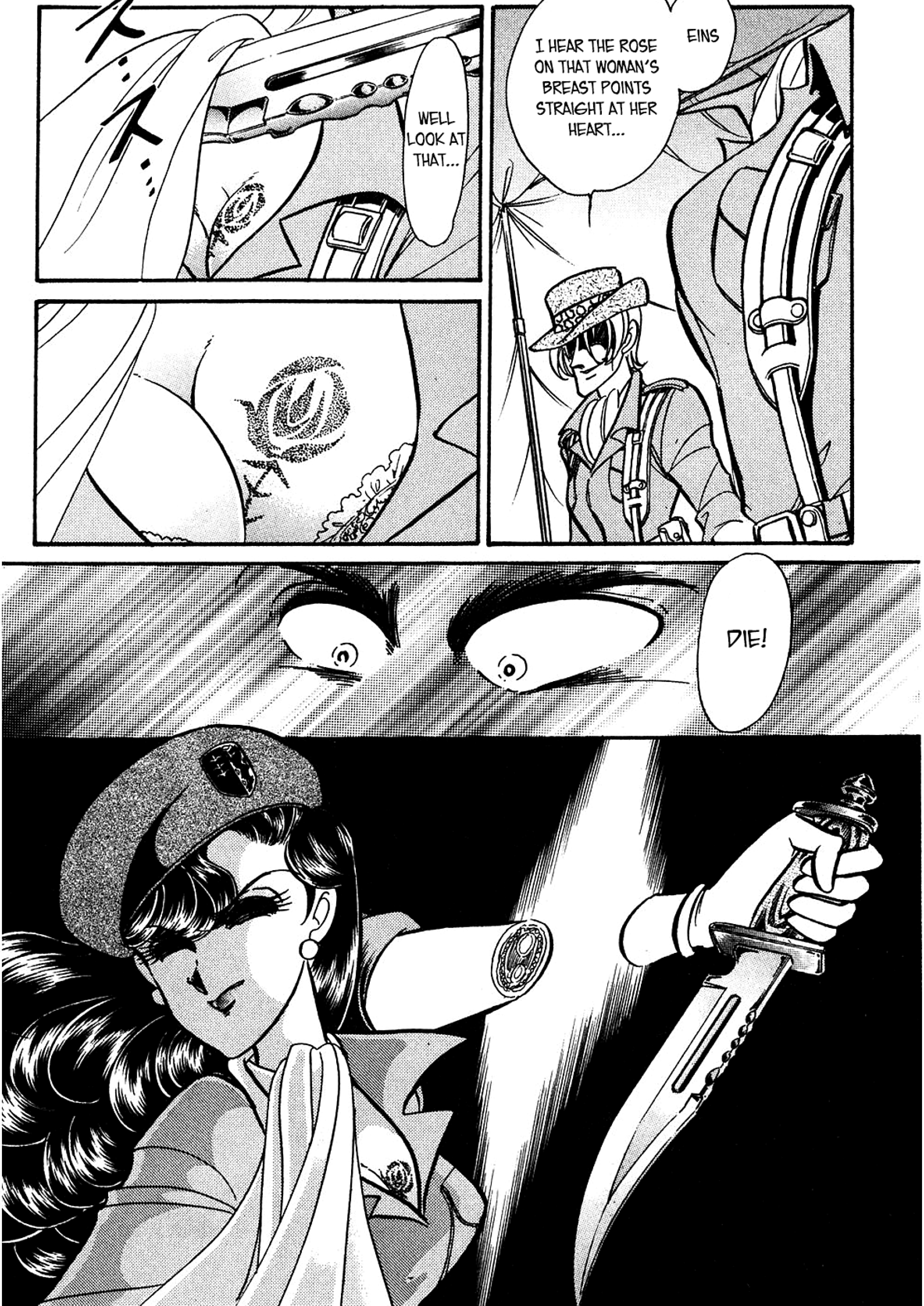

SHALL WE BRING DOWN THE CURTAIN?
...AREN'T YOU ON OUR SIDE?
MR. SECRETARY OF STATE
IT SEEMS YOU FAIL TO GRASP THE SITUATION, SO ALLOW ME TO REVIEW IT FOR YOU.
......
YOU CAME TO VESBANIA TO RESTORE OUR GOVERNMENT'S SCANDAL-TARNISHED IMAGE AND RESOLVE AN ETHNIC CONFLICT. IT WAS A CHANCE TO KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE...
THEREFORE
YOU ENTERED INTO MEDIATION IN THE CIVIL WAR BETWEEN WEINALIANS AND ILBANIANS.
THIS IS THE SCENARIO THE PRESIDENT APPROVED.

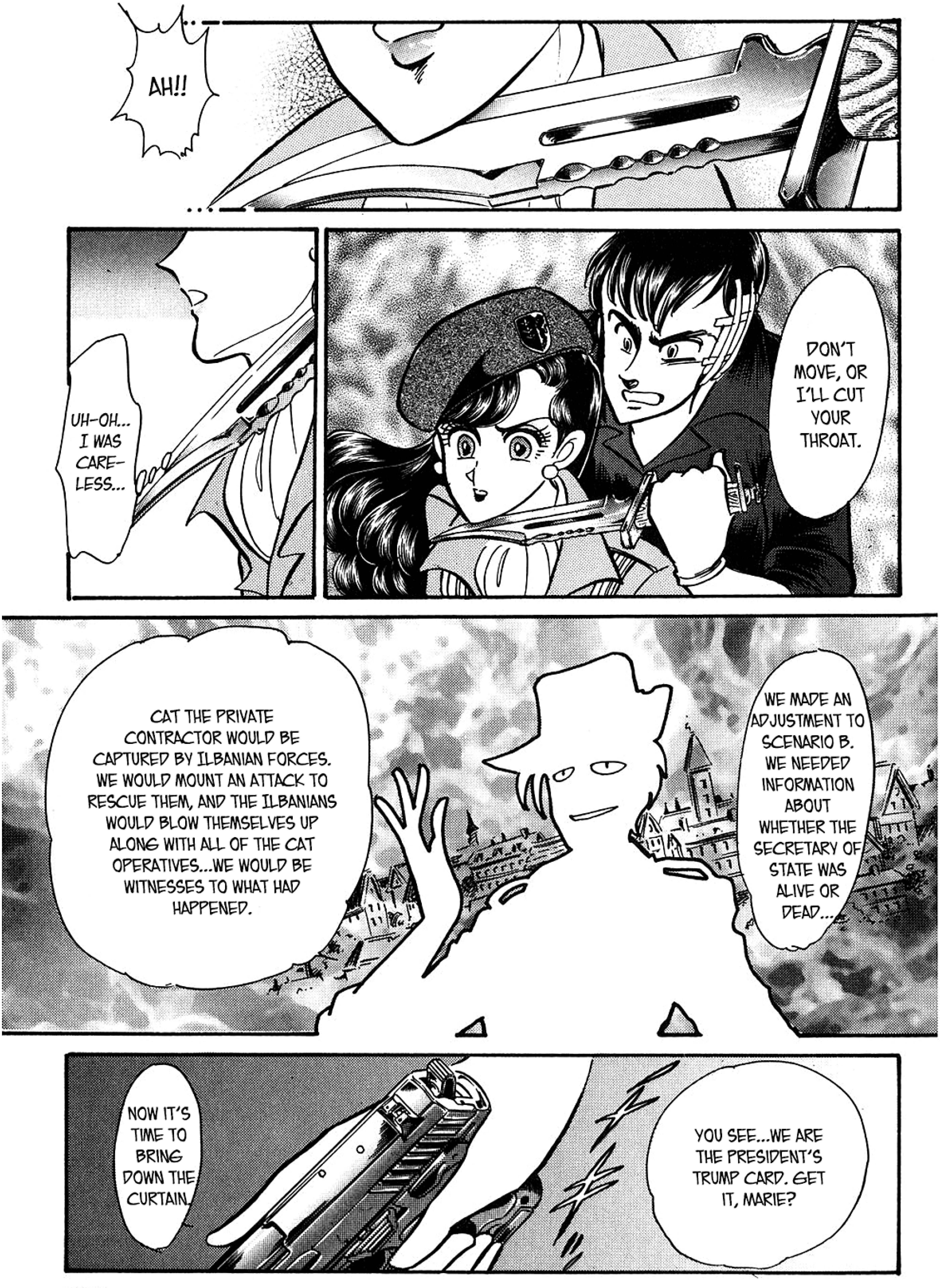

BUT...WHILE PUBLICLY PRETENDING TO NEGOTIATE FOR PEACE AS A NEUTRAL PARTY, YOU MET SECRETLY WITH WIENALIANS WHO ARE POWERFUL IN THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT...
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND ETHNIC PRIDE.
AND THAT'S WHAT THE PRESIDENT FORESAW AS WELL.
!
MAYBE HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.
THE PRESIDENT DOESN'T GIVE A CRAP WHICH ETHNIC GROUP CONTROLS VESBANIA.
THE PROBLEM IS WHEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY BECOMES THE EUROPEAN UNION, VESBANIA MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO JOIN.

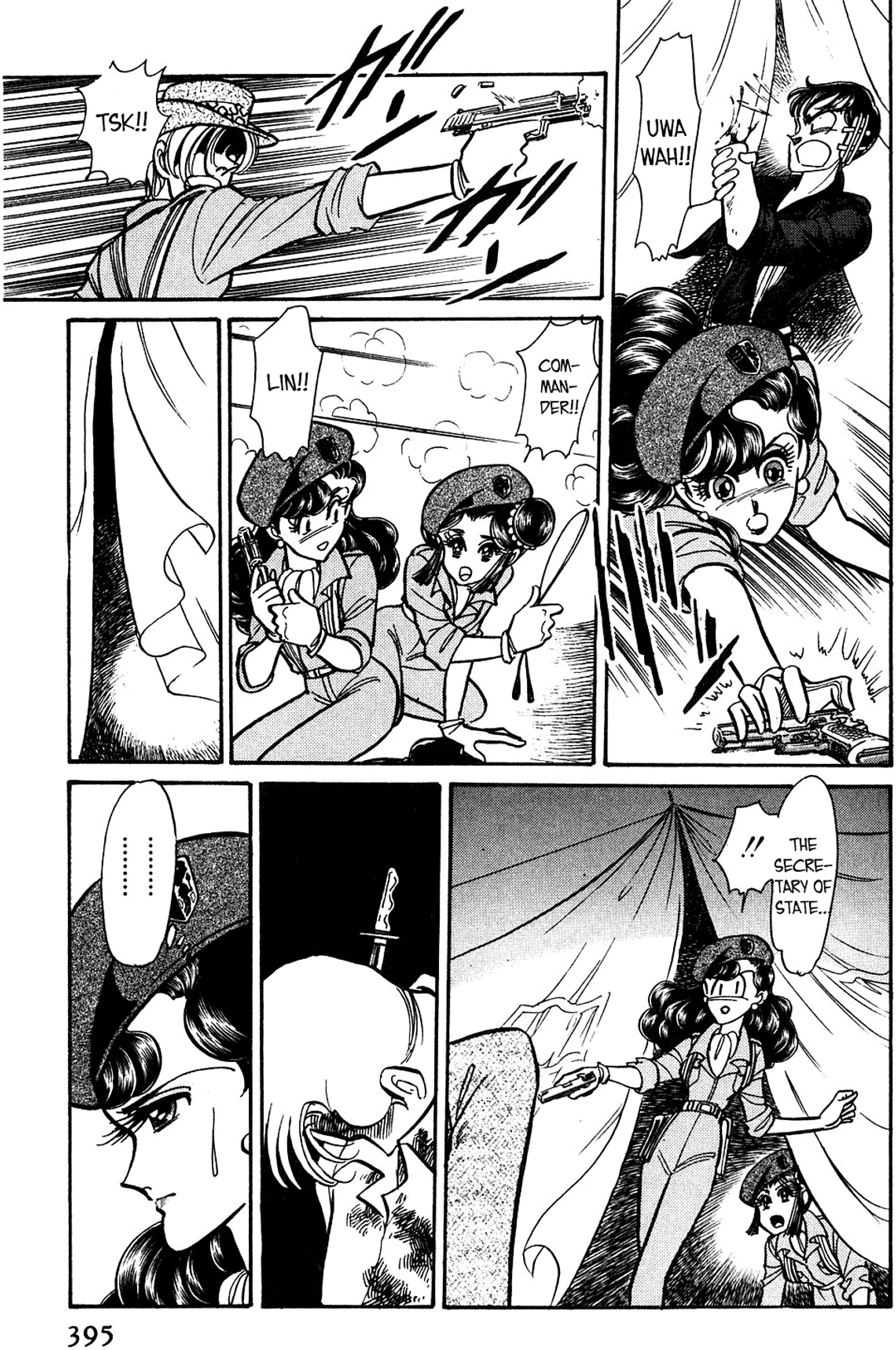

IF VESBANIA JOINS THE E.U., EVENTUALLY ALL OF EASTERN EUROPE, EVEN RUSSIA WILL CROWD IN.
AND THAT'S A PROBLEM.
TO PUT IT PLAINLY, POOR PEOPLE AND RICH PEOPLE WOULD BE SHARING THE SAME WALLET.
IT WILL ENRICH EVERYONE.
YOU COULD ALSO SAY IT WILL IMPOVERISH EVERYONE.
IT ELIMINATES AMERICA'S GRAVY TRAIN...

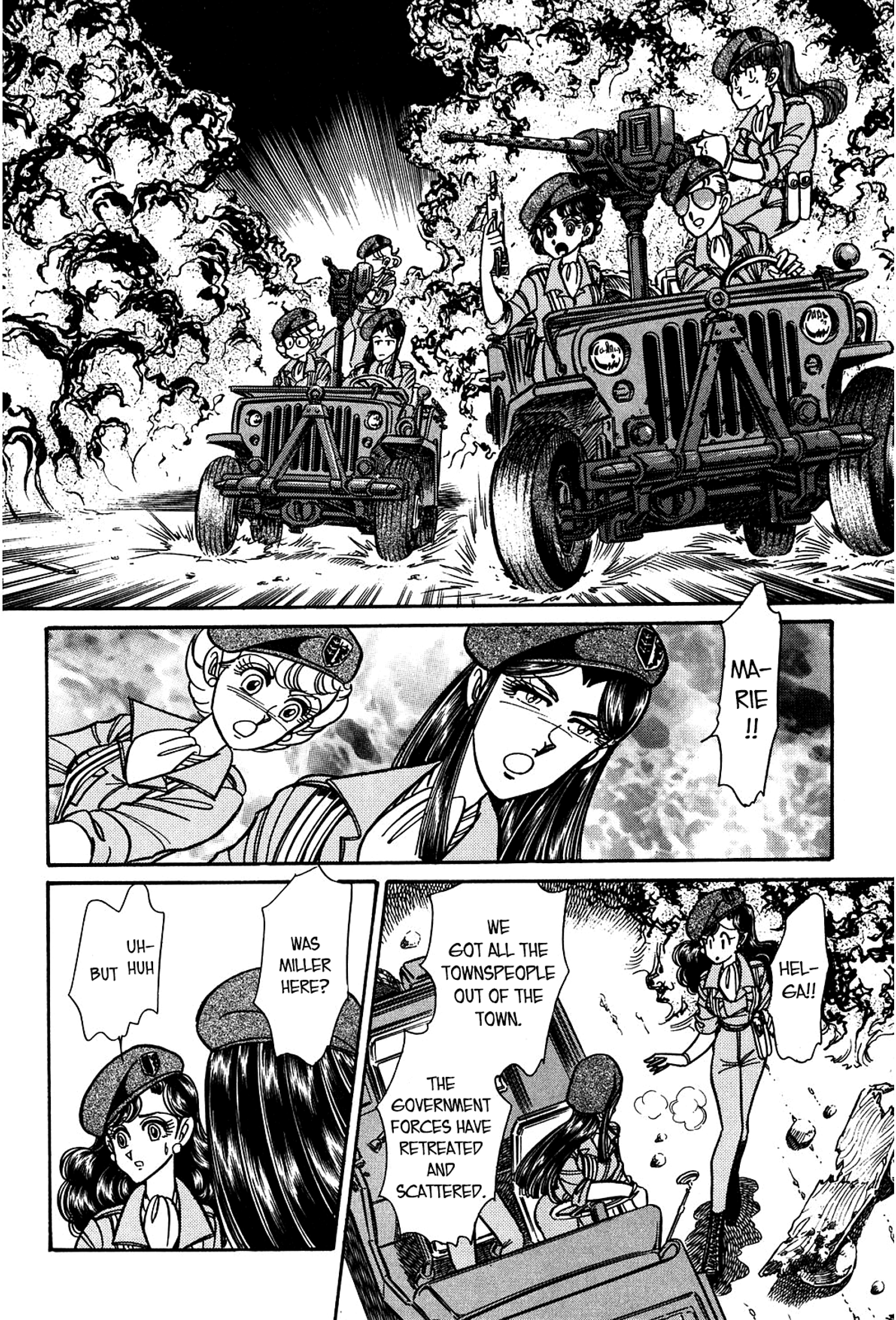

IF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS GO WELL, THE PRESIDENT'S STOCK GOES UP FOR THE NEXT ELECTION.
IF THE CHAOS FROM THE CIVIL WAR IS CLEANED UP BY U.S. ASSISTANCE, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO DELAY VESBANIA'S ENTRY INTO THE E.U.
THIS... IS SCENARIO A.
BUT WHEN YOU GOT RILED UP OVER ETHNIC NATIONALISM AND BROKE OFF NEGOTIATIONS, WE SWITCHED TO SCENARIO B.
WE CHOSE TO PRETEND THAT YOUR PERSONAL PLANE
HAD BEEN BLOWN UP BY AN ANTI-GOVERNMENT MISSILE.
WHILE EVERYONE MOURNED THE DEATH OF THE BRAVE SECRETARY OF STATE WHO RISKED HIS LIFE FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS,
THE SCANDALS WOULD BE CURTAILED AND AMERICA COULD PLAY THE VICTIM CARD.
AND BECAUSE OF THE INCIDENT, E.U. MEMBERSHIP FOR VESBANIA WOULD BE SHELVED...
THAT'S SCENARIO B.

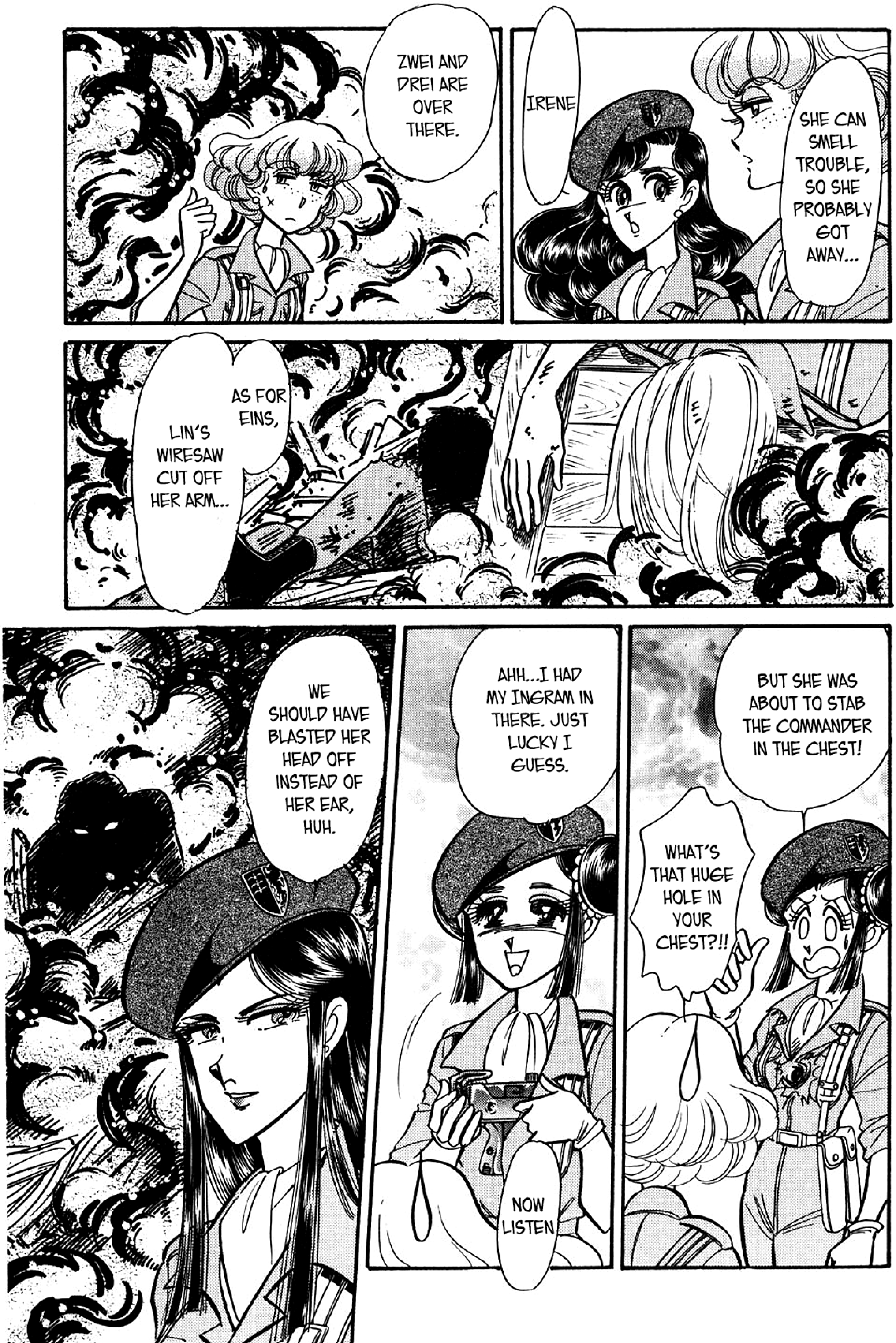

WHAT A TERRIBLE SCENARIO. IT'S NOT EVEN WORTHY OF A C MOVIE IN HOLLYWOOD.
WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND... IS HOW MY UNIT GOT MIXED UP IN THIS FARCE.
WE WERE AD-LIBBING. RIGHT BEFORE THE OPERATION STARTED, INFORMATION ABOUT IT LEAKED TO THE SECRETARY.
THE CIA AGENTS WERE ORDERED TO PROCEED WITH THE SCENARIO ANYWAY.
THEY GOT THE RIGHT NUMBER OF PEOPLE ONBOARD HOWEVER THEY COULD AND SENT THE AIRPLANE ON ITS WAY.
THAT'S WHY THE SEXES DON'T MATCH UP.
HE MAY HAVE BECOME PRESIDENT, BUT HE'S A TERRIBLE SCRIPT WRITER.
SO... HE ESCAPED.
I FEEL SORRY FOR THE PEOPLE WHO WERE ONBOARD...

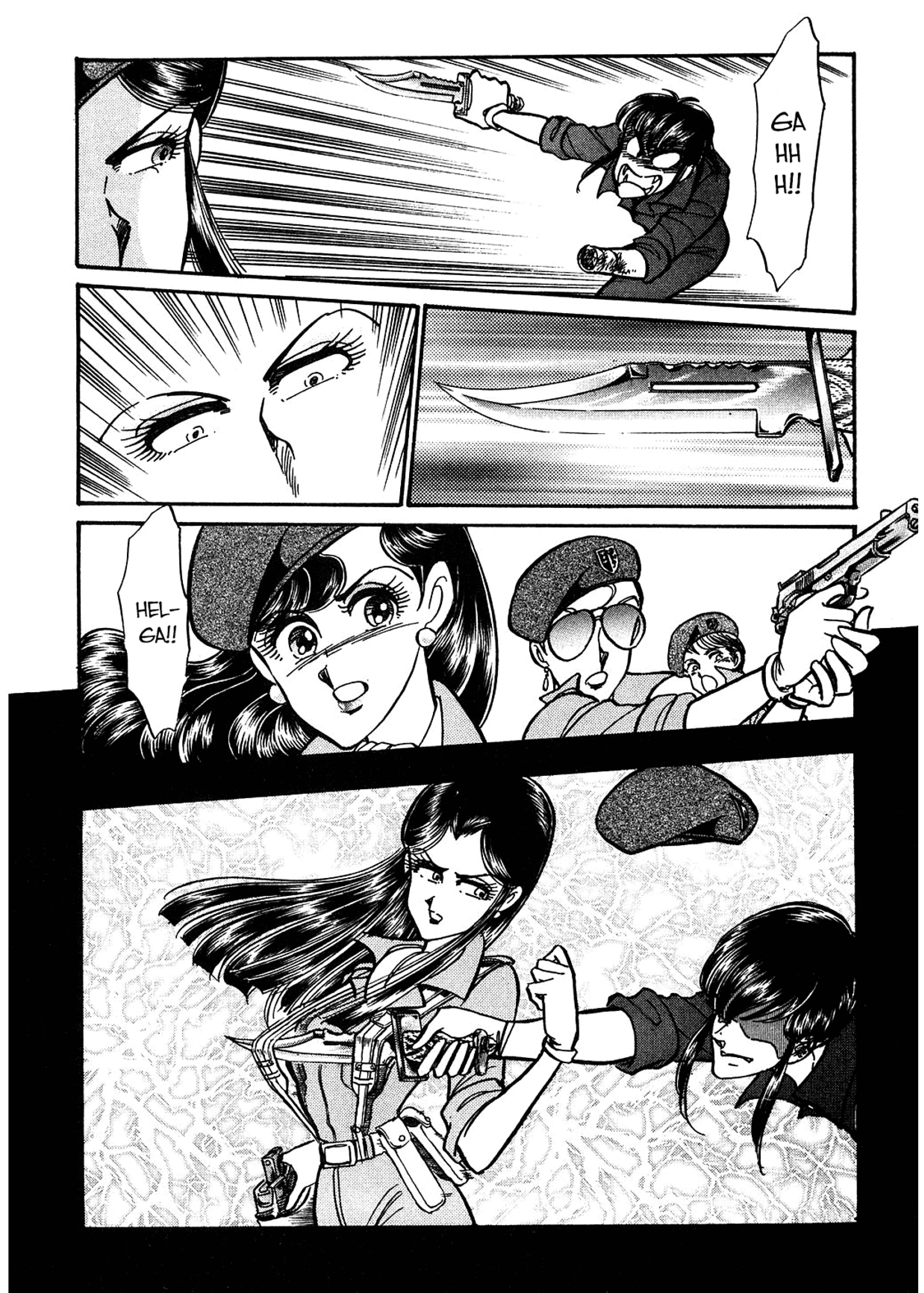

EINS
I HEAR THE ROSE ON THAT WOMAN'S BREAST POINTS STRAIGHT AT HER HEART...
ス…ス…
WELL LOOK AT THAT...
DIE!

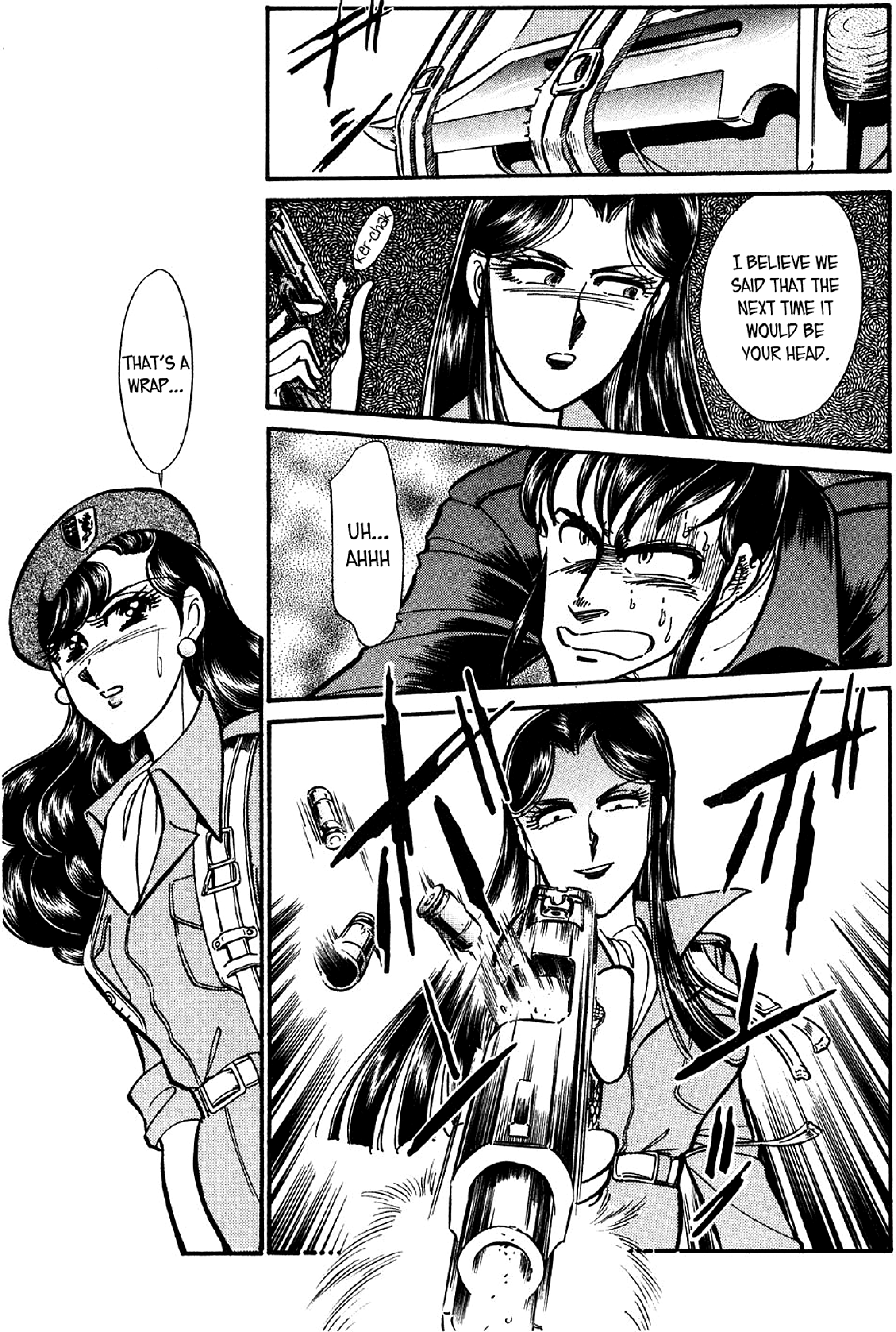

AH!!
DON'T MOVE, OR I'LL CUT YOUR THROAT.
UH-OH... I WAS CARELESS...
WE MADE AN ADJUSTMENT TO SCENARIO B. WE NEEDED INFORMATION ABOUT WHETHER THE SECRETARY OF STATE WAS ALIVE OR DEAD...
CAT THE PRIVATE CONTRACTOR WOULD BE CAPTURED BY ILBANIAN FORCES. WE WOULD MOUNT AN ATTACK TO RESCUE THEM, AND THE ILBANIANS WOULD BLOW THEMSELVES UP ALONG WITH ALL OF THE CAT OPERATIVES...WE WOULD BE WITNESSES TO WHAT HAD HAPPENED.
YOU SEE...WE ARE THE PRESIDENT'S TRUMP CARD. GET IT, MARIE?
NOW IT'S TIME TO BRING DOWN THE CURTAIN.

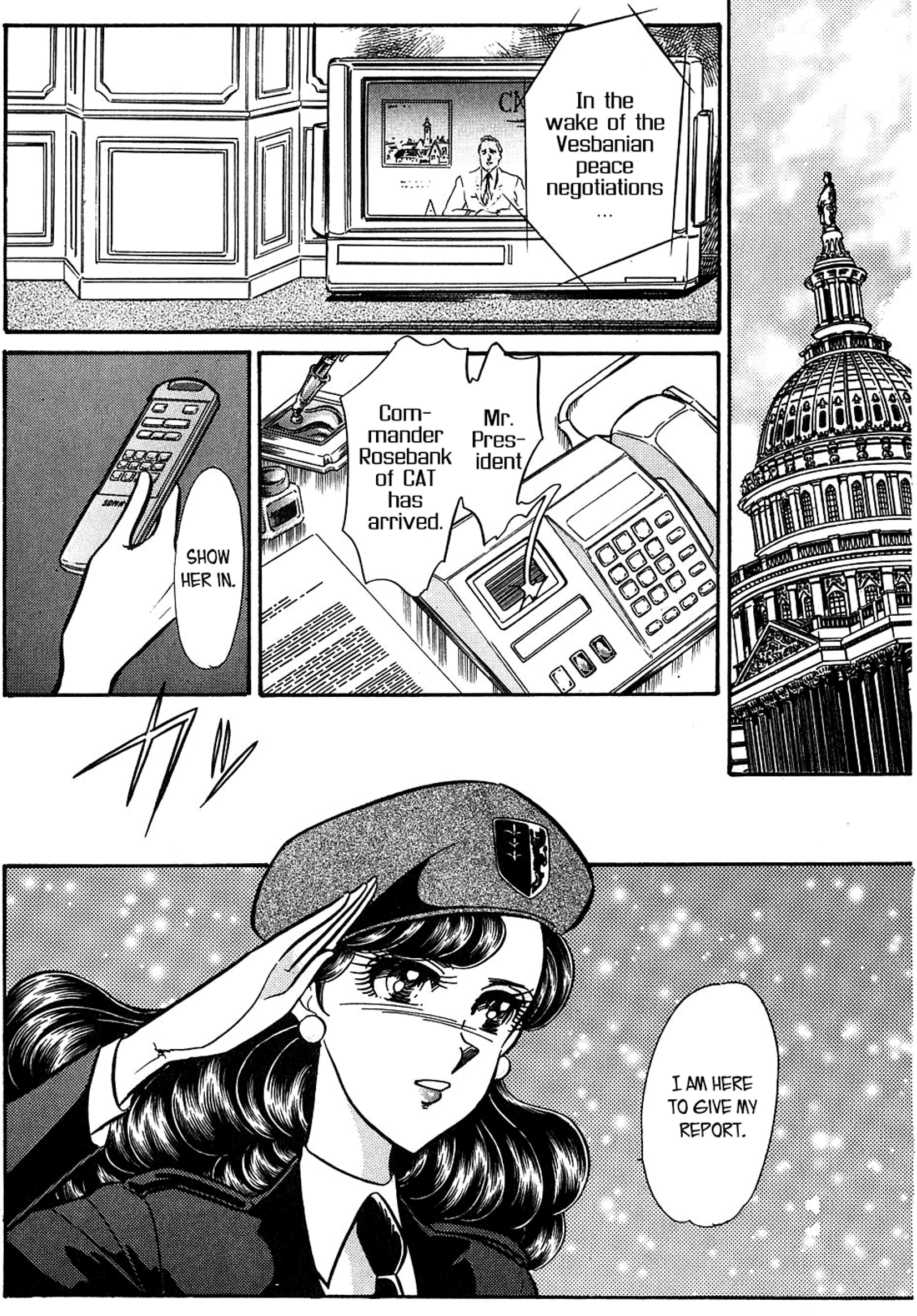

UWA WAH!!
TSK!!
COM-MAN-DER!!
LIN!!
THE SECRETARY OF STATE..
!!
......

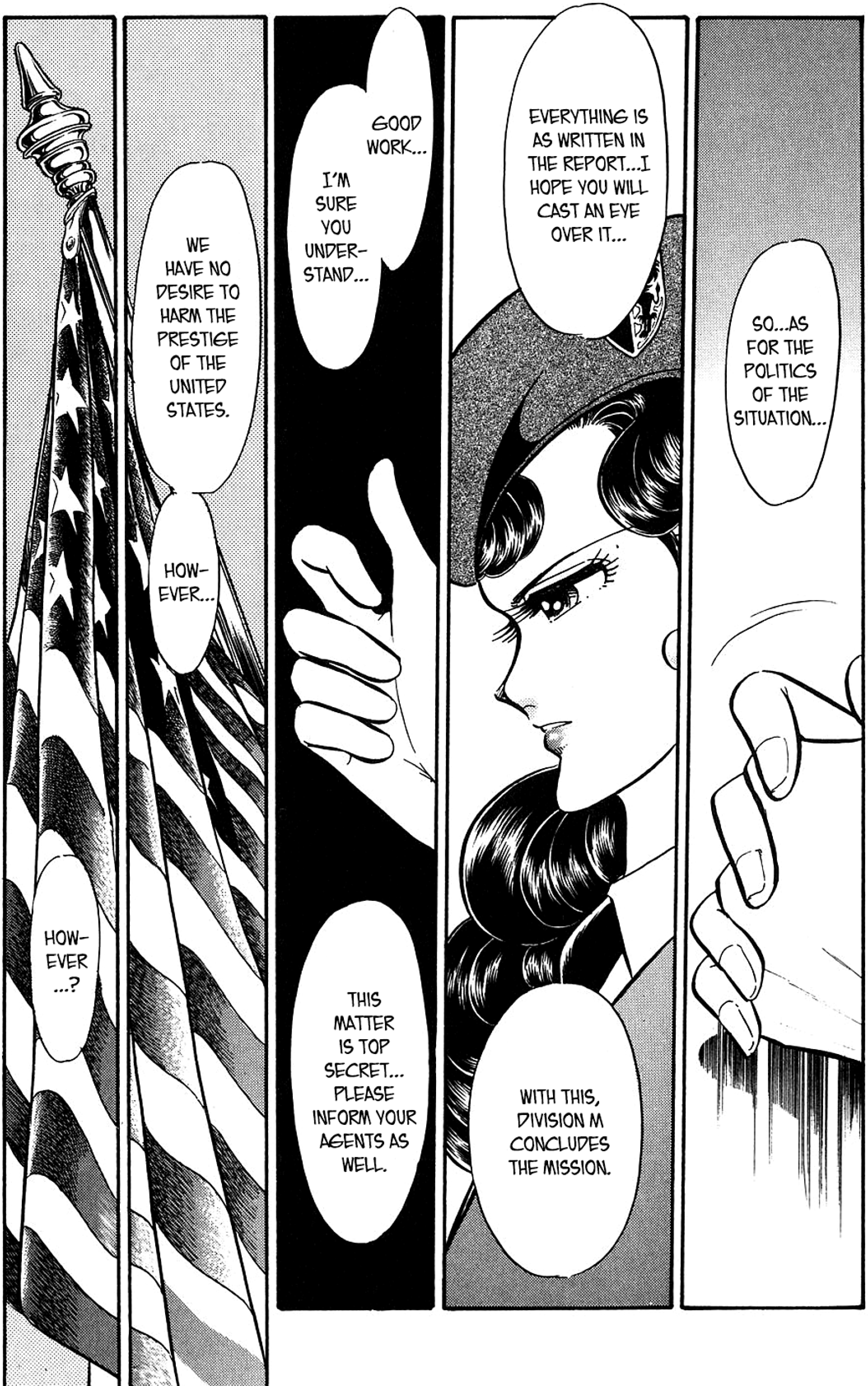

MARIE!!
HELGA!!
WE GOT ALL THE TOWNSPEOPLE OUT OF THE TOWN.
THE GOVERNMENT FORCES HAVE RETREATED AND SCATTERED.
WAS MILLER HERE?
UH-HUH BUT

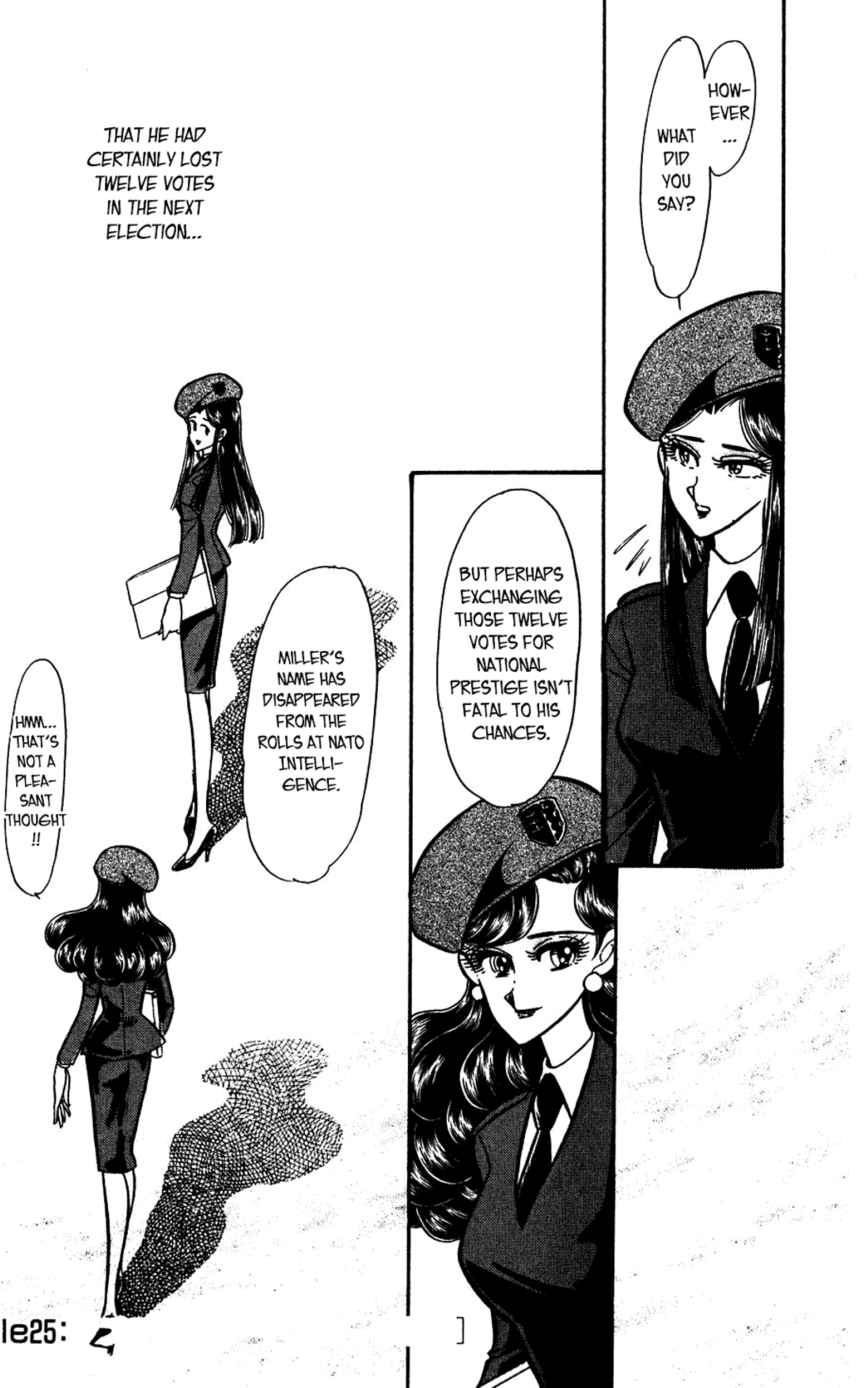

ZWEI AND DREI ARE OVER THERE.
IRENE
SHE CAN SMELL TROUBLE, SO SHE PROBABLY GOT AWAY...
AS FOR EINS,
LIN'S WIRESAW CUT OFF HER ARM...
WE SHOULD HAVE BLASTED HER HEAD OFF INSTEAD OF HER EAR, HUH.
AHH...I HAD MY INGRAM IN THERE. JUST LUCKY I GUESS.
NOW LISTEN
BUT SHE WAS ABOUT TO STAB THE COMMANDER IN THE CHEST!
WHAT'S THAT HUGE HOLE IN YOUR CHEST?!!


GAHHH!!
HELGA!!


I BELIEVE WE SAID THAT THE NEXT TIME IT WOULD BE YOUR HEAD.
Ker-chak
UH... AHHH
THAT'S A WRAP...


In the wake of the Vesbanian peace negotiations …
Mr. President
Commander Rosebank of CAT has arrived.
SHOW HER IN.
I AM HERE TO GIVE MY REPORT.


SO...AS FOR THE POLITICS OF THE SITUATION...
EVERYTHING IS AS WRITTEN IN THE REPORT...I HOPE YOU WILL CAST AN EYE OVER IT...
WITH THIS, DIVISION M CONCLUDES THE MISSION.
GOOD WORK...
I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND...
THIS MATTER IS TOP SECRET... PLEASE INFORM YOUR AGENTS AS WELL.
WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO HARM THE PRESTIGE OF THE UNITED STATES.
HOWEVER...
HOWEVER...?


THAT HE HAD CERTAINLY LOST TWELVE VOTES IN THE NEXT ELECTION...
HOWEVER...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
BUT PERHAPS EXCHANGING THOSE TWELVE VOTES FOR NATIONAL PRESTIGE ISN'T FATAL TO HIS CHANCES.
MILLER'S NAME HAS DISAPPEARED FROM THE ROLLS AT NATO INTELLIGENCE.
HMM.. THAT'S NOT A PLEASANT THOUGHT !!

[File25:]

【初出】
●File:23
●File:24
●File:25

第七巻おわり

白泉社文庫

大好評発売中！

青池保子

ハードなスパイ・アクション！

Zーツェットー全1巻

奇想天外なシュール・コメディ！

イブの息子たち全3巻

秋里和国

戦慄のスペクタクル・ロマン！

青のメソポタミア全1巻

安孫子三和

天才猫のワンダフル・ライフ！

みかん・絵日記全6巻

樹なつみ

傑作サイキック・アクション！

朱鷺色三角（ときいろトライアングル）全3巻

朱鷺色三角（ときいろトライアングル）の続編！

パッション・パレード全3巻

ファッショナブル・ストーリー。

マルチェロ物語（ストーリア）全4巻

大島弓子

ファンタジーの最高峰。

綿の国星全4巻

心に深いリリカル・ロマン！

夏のおわりのト短調全1巻

感性豊かな傑作短編集！

バナナブレッドのプディング全1巻

淡い想いの短編集！

さようなら女達全1巻

センシティブ短編集！

全て緑になる日まで全1巻

天然ラブ・ストーリー！

いちご物語全1巻

悲しさがちょっぴりにじんだ短編集。

四月怪談全1巻

平和すぎる結婚生活が狂い始めたら…!!

ダリアの帯全1巻

ファンタスティック・ラブ・ストーリー。

ロングロングケーキ全1巻

ファンタジック・ワールド！

つるばら つるばら全1巻

猫と人間の対等な生活。

サバの秋の夜長全1巻

すばらしきかな、猫がいる生活。シリーズ第2弾。

サバの夏が来た全1巻

大雪師走

ハムスターのほんわか生態レポート。

ハムスターの研究レポート1・2巻

克・亜樹

芸能界ドタバタストーリー。

星くずパラダイス全6巻

河惣益巳

海洋冒険ロマン！

サラディナーサ全5巻

川原　泉

ほんわかユーモラスな傑作集！

空の食欲魔人全1巻

新感覚スポーツ・ドラマ！

甲子園の空に笑え！全1巻

愛と家畜と作物の感動物語！

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■川原 泉

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新・本日のお言葉	最新作を含む川原作品から新たに金言を厳選！ ●新書判上製●定価1,000円
事象の地平	カワハラ教授のお気楽哲学エッセイ集。 ●新書判上製●定価1,100円

■佐々木倫子

画集 動物のお医者さん	チョビや獣医学部の連中も登場で楽しさ満載！ ●A4判変型●定価1,553円

■清水玲子

画集1 ARIA（アリア）	デビュー作から『月の子』まで約80点収録。 ●A4判変型●定価1,510円
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ミラクル・タロット	描き下ろし多数のオリジナル・タロットカード。 ●B6判●定価2,230円

■成田美名子

画集 CIPHER（サイファ） THE（ザ） COLLECTION（コレクション）	カラーイラスト扉絵を約120点収録。 ●A4判変型●定価2,720円

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画集 ぼくの地球を守って2	イラストやインタビューなど情報満載の第2弾。 ●A4判変型●定価1,550円
ぼくの地球を守って The Final Book	画集未収録のイラストやOVAの名場面を収録。 ●A4判変型●定価1,748円
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■三浦建太郎	
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■山内直実	
画集 なんて素敵にジャパネスク	カラーイラストを完全収録。ファン必携の保存版! ●A4判変型●定価1,550円
■羅川真里茂	
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